Hafa Adai!

MVA: Tourism would be negatively impacted by nuclear weapons in Guam. PAGE 2
Businesses conduct cleanup on beach along Beach Road. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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Search for missing teen continues

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Quitano

Yesterday was the third day since Tegan Quitano was reported missing and the Department of Public Safety said the search for the 15-year-old continues. It also urges community members to continue being vigilant and help report any leads on the missing person case.

See SEARCH on Page 4

PSS

'VALUE WHAT YOU LOVE TO DO'

The eighth grade homeroom class of educator Vivian Atalig of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School on Rota received a guest lecture on career exploration from Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, seated in the center, last Thursday. Encouraging the class to "think creatively and select the best career they feel is appropriate for them after high school," the education chief got everyone involved. Marine biology and ocean conservation, healthcare, automotive mechanics, and entrepreneurship were the fields that the students selected. Taking inspiration from the students' career goals, Camacho urged the class to "value the things you enjoy doing and strive to accomplish them, starting with completing junior high school, high school, and college."

Senate president: Tax hike must be analyzed

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DeLeon Guerrero

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) says with the CNMI economy's current situation, whether implementing tax hikes are sound must be analyzed.

Previously, the CNMI administration announced that it has experienced a budget shortfall for the third quarter of 2024.

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, as a suggestion, urged lawmakers to consider tax hikes to boost

See SENATE on Page 4

Kilili: 350 residents who depend on Medicare in NMI will be eligible for reduced drug costs

Sablan

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
delatorreferdie@gmailcom
CORRESPONDENT

About 350 residents of the CNMI, who depend on Medicare for their health needs, will be eligible for reduced costs on 10 drugs mostly for diabetes beginning Jan. 1, 2026, according to

See KILILI on Page 4

CCC: There's no reason to stay revocation proceedings

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

From left, Commonwealth Casino Commission board member Mariano Taitano, chair Edward Deleon Guerrero, and member Rafael S. Demapan discuss Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's bankruptcy during a board meeting last week.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission, after learning of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's agreement with creditors to liquidate all assets, says if this is the case, there is no reason to stay revocation proceedings.

Last week, CCC held a

See CCC on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS

CNMI Small Business Development Center Network marketing manager and outreach specialist Roman Franklin M. Tudela as one of the nation's 40 recipients of the prestigious America's SBDC's 40 Under 40 awards.

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NATION

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. suspended his independent campaign for the White House and endorsed Donald Trump on Friday, a late-stage shakeup of the race that could give the former president a modest boost from Kennedy's supporters.

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LIFE & STYLE

Justin Bieber, who rose to international stardom in 2010 with his hit "Baby," has welcomed one of his own with his wife, Hailey Bieber.

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

MVA: Tourism would be negatively impacted by nuclear weapons in Guam

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority says if Guam were to move forward with housing nuclear weapons on Guam, it would negatively impact tourism in the Marianas.

MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion has weighed in on a recent issue regarding the storage of nuclear weapons on Guam stating that this move would negatively impact tourism on the islands.

"We believe it will negatively affect tourism if Guam proceeds with any plans to store or dump nuclear waste in their lands and waters. We are too close geographically to Guam for it not to affect us in the future. We are concerned about the rapid militarization of the CNMI as it has some negative connotations in our source markets. The CNMI is seen as a clean and peaceful tourist destination. Any attempt by the U.S. or Guam governments to alter that is troubling," he said.

Concepcion also notes that in the CNMI Constitution, it specifically prohibits the storage or disposal of nuclear weapons or waste in the Commonwealth.

"So, we must uphold that. The history of nuclear weapons began on Tinian as North Field was the launching point for the first and only atomic bombs ever deployed in warfare, so we are naturally more sensitive to this issue. We trust our leadership on Capitol Hill will protect the interests of the Commonwealth in the short and long term," he said.

Previously, a group of concerned CNMI residents wrote to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios about concerns regarding Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero's statement "in defense" of nuclear weapons in Guam. However, according to Palacios, he has not seen these comments and does not know how he would address the issue.

Our Common Wealth 670, a group believed to be established by local CNMI residents, wrote to Palacios

Concepcion

Leon Guerrero

about concerns regarding Leon Guerrero's statement "in defense" of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles in Guam.

"We are writing in regards to a recent Radio New Zealand interview with the honorable Gov. of Guam, Lou Leon Guerrero. In her interview, Gov. Leon Guerrero defends the use of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles on Guam. We find this latest development troubling given our island's historical stance against the introduction of nuclear storage and waste," said the letter.

"As a community organization dedicated to protecting our islands, seas and community from irreparable damage caused by harmful developments such as militarization, we write with urgent and grave concern to urge government officials to continue to support the voices of our people by speaking out against the introduction of nuclear weapons, storage and waste in our region of the world, let alone within our Marianas archipelago and surrounding waters. There is perhaps nothing more threatening to our islands and way of life than nuclear weapons which have the ability to destroy places for countless generations down the line," the letter further states.

Palacios for his part said he hasn't seen this letter.

"I haven't seen the letter but I'm not sure if there's going to be nuclear weapons in Guam. Guam is a defense community. They [have] facilities and installations like the Anderson Air Force Base and now they're building a new Marine Corp. campus, a big one at that. I can't be very specific because I haven't read these comments," he said.

When asked his stance on nuclear weapons in the Marianas, he said there is a concern but because the Marianas is in a different kind of environment, he is unsure how he'd address the matter.

"Let me be very clear, nobody, not any community in the world, is not concerned about that. The fact of the matter is we're in a different environment today so I'm not sure how do we address this. We look to our Department of Defense to ensure that a lot of these concerns are mitigated. Again, I'm not fully aware of what's going on with nuclear weapons in Guam or what our governor of Guam has said," he said.

In the letter to Palacios, Our Common Wealth 670 states that as islanders, the land and sea deeply connects the Marianas to one another despite the distance.

"The invitation to bring nuclear power to Guam goes against the history of islander resistance to such dangerous technologies including anti-nuclear movements such as the Free and Independent Nuclear Pacific. We also find this to be alarming knowing the history of nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands, French Polynesia and other Pacific Islands, where islanders have long been used as test cases for scientific research in the name of mankind. We recognize that nuclear power is an existential threat to our islands and way of life," the letter states.

Our Common Wealth 670 states that it believes the CNMI can become an environmental beacon throughout the Pacific, through legislation and community practices, that promotes an equitable and nuclear-free region.

"Our elders have historically championed a clean and healthful environment and we want to preserve this wisdom for future generations. We want to highlight and reference Article I, Section 9 of the CNMI Constitution which reads: 'Section 9: Clean and Healthful Environment. — Each person has the right to a clean and healthful public environment in all areas, including the land, air, and water. Harmful and unnecessary noise pollution, and the storage of nuclear or radioactive material and the dumping or storage of any type of nuclear waste within the surface or submerged lands and waters of the Northern Mariana Islands, are prohibited except as provided by law.' This constitutional provision mandates the CNMI government to oppose the plans of the Pentagon and the Territory of Guam to harbor nuclear weapons in such close proximity to the CNMI," said the letter.

"We implore you and your administration to denounce and oppose the move to bring nuclear armaments and materials to our region. The idea of harboring weapons as a deterrence strategy for peace is unsustainable," the letter adds.

The group notes that the "security" behind the threat of mutually assured destruction is not a liveable option for anyone, much less the people of the Marianas.

"Our goal as Pacific Islanders is disarmament-not more nuclear weapons-and envisioning a world where conflict and geopolitical tensions are resolved via diplomacy and genuine security. The endless militarization we are witnessing in the Marianas, alongside the increasing use of nuclear weapons, cannot assure us of anything other than destruction in the name of peace," the group states.

"In closing, as community members dedicated to the protection of our lands, we once again urge all government officials to uplift the message that nuclear weapons cannot bring peace to a region that has suffered from war. We do not believe that our islands are resigned to war 'no matter what,' and instead want to state that this fatalistic perspective only promotes endless war-mongering and fear in the region. We believe in viewing security from the entire archipelago and surrounding seas where our connections to one another are prioritized, our environmental safety is respected and a future free from contamination is guaranteed to future generations," the group adds.

Businesses conduct cleanup on beach along Beach Road

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A group of 25 volunteers from various businesses took part in a cleanup of the beach from Quartermaster Road in Chalan Laulau up to the Atkins Kroll intersection in Oleai last Aug. 17.

A group of businesses conducted a cleanup on the stretch of beach from Quartermaster Road in Chalan Laulau up to the Atkins Kroll intersection in Oleai last Aug. 17.

P&A Corp. vice president and Pacific Eco Laundry president Doyi Kim said a total of 25 participants took part in the bimonthly cleanup and the group was able to fill three garbage bags full of trash.

"During the cleanup, we found several types of garbage, with some items being more common than others. The most frequently collected items were plastic bottles, which show how much single-use plastic ends up as litter. Cigarette butts were also found, indicating that many people still improperly dispose of them," she said.

Kim said additionally, snack packaging such as wrappers and bags was commonly picked up by the group, which reflects the impact of casual littering on the beach.

"These items not only spoil the beauty of the area but also harm the environment and wildlife," she said.

Kim then extended her heartfelt appreciation to the departments and individuals from the group of companies that participated in this beach cleanup initiative.

"Their efforts made this event a success. Special thanks go to the employees from Winners Hardware, Winners Gas, Pacific Eco Laundry, the technical department, MMHC Slaughterhouse, and DKK Construction, led by Mr. Joo Ho Joon and Mr. Lee Dae Il. I also want to recognize the three teens who joined us—their enthusiasm was truly inspiring."

Lastly, she said P&A Corp., DKK Inc., Marianas Meat Harvesting Corp., and Pacific Eco Laundry reaffirms their ongoing commitment to the community by organizing regular beach clean-up activities around the island.

"These efforts are vital in preserving the natural beauty of our island's beaches and ensuring a cleaner environment for future generations. We look forward to continuing this important work together and encourage all members of our community to join us in these efforts," she said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NMHC IFB 2024-012

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS) WILLIAM S. REYES (WSR) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REHABILITATION PROJECT

Project Package will be available on July 15, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhcgov.net or the CDBG-DR Website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **July 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) NMHC IFB 2024-011

(This ad is paid by NMHC by HUD funds)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: August 29, 2024, 2:00 p.m..

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS) MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL (MHS) REHABILITATION PROJECT

Project Package will be available on July 15, 2024, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One-Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set of the project package. Payment must be made payable to NMHC and receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package at the reception counter.

Brief description of the project package is available on the NMHC Website at www.nmhcgov.net or the CDBG-DR Website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com "Procurement Tab".

The provisions on the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office Conference located in Garapan, Saipan on **July 26, 2024, 10:00 a.m.** In addition, a Mandatory site Visit/Inspection of the project site will be conducted immediately after the Pre-Bid Conference. Failure to attend both the Mandatory Pre-bid conference and the Mandatory site Visit/Inspection will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during business hours, 7:30am – 4:30pm Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

/s/ MERCED "MARCIE" M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman
NMHC Board of Directors

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-24-019
LEASE OF MIDSIZE TRUCKS AND COMPACT SEDANS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Vendors for the Lease and Delivery of Brand-New Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-24-019, Lease and Delivery of Midsize Trucks and Compact Sedans"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 24, 2024.** Late submissions and conditional RFP will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Proposer's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of the proposals under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2024,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Vicente Deleon Guerrero, Compliance Administrator via email vicente.deleonguerrero@cucgov.org, and to Marcela Tenorio, Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

ISLA KAGMAN COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

(A:) Kagman III, (B:) Southern (San Antonio), (C:) Tinian

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer
Salary Range: Up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate
Note: The salary will be based on the qualifications of the applicant

Opening Date: August 16, 2024
Closing Date: September 15, 2024
Location: 6690 Kagman Road

("This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number 22H80CS31624 for Health Center Program. This information, or content and conclusions, are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.")

Position Summary: We are seeking an exceptional leader to join our team as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This pivotal role involves steering the organization towards its strategic vision, ensuring operational excellence, and maintaining financial health. The CEO will oversee a robust team, manage substantial federal funds, and uphold compliance with all regulatory standards. Regular travel to the US and neighboring islands is required.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Develop and implement the organization's strategic goals in partnership with the Board of Directors. Foster a culture of excellence and community engagement.
- Ensure efficient daily operations, compliance with HRSA guidelines, and adherence to federal, and local CNMI regulations.
- Oversee a $3 million budget, manage program income, and ensure compliance with funding requirements. Pursue additional funding opportunities and maintain financial transparency.
- Collaborate with the CMO to ensure high-quality medical services. Promote patient-centered care and best practices.
- Ensure compliance with laws and regulations, manage risks & oversee internal/external audits for the 340B Drug Program.
- Lead recruitment, development, and retention of a workforce. Foster and inclusive and positive work environment.
- Serve as the primary liaison to the Board of Directors, providing regular updates and supporting governance functions.
- Engage with regional partners & stakeholders, participate in industry conferences, and represent KCHC in the community.

Qualification Requirements:

- **Education:** Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration, Public Health, or a related field.
- **Experience:** Minimum of 10 years of progressive leadership experience in healthcare management with at least 5 years in an executive role within an FQHC or similar organization.
- **Skills:** Exceptional leadership, strategic planning, and financial management abilities. Strong understanding of healthcare regulations and compliance. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- **Requirements:** Commitment to the Kagman Isla FQHC's conflict of interest policy. **(Note: Immediate relatives of current employees or board members will not be considered for this position.)**

Benefits Package:

- **Competitive Salary:** Depending on qualifications, up to the Max Allowable by the HRSA Federal Mandate.
- **Retirement:** 401(k) plan with company matching.
- **Healthcare:** Medical, Dental & Vision
- **Paid Time-Off:** 4 Weeks Paid Time-Off Annually

How to Apply: Applicants must apply in person at Kagman Community Health Center, 6690, Kagman Road
Note: Full Detailed Job Description Available Upon Request.

P.O. BOX 5723 CHRB, SAIPAN MP 96950 – 6690 KAGMAN ROAD, KAGMAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING, KAGMAN III
Tel: (670)256-5240/2/3/7/8 Fax: (670) 256-5244/9 http://kagmanchc.org

SENATE

From page 1

revenue collections.

In a statement from Deleon Guerrero to local media in regard to the implementation of tax hikes to boost CNMI's revenue collections, she said that implementing legislation like this must be carefully analyzed by taking into account the CNMI's current economic status.

"There are several bills that have been introduced to increase taxes but...let's look at our economy today. Let's ask the questions; 'where do we stand today, financially? Is it sound to impose [tax hikes] in the current market position of the CNMI?' This has to be studied. This has to be analyzed," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero explained that the CNMI's economy is not doing well financially and that should be taken into consideration when tax hike bills are discussed.

"We're underfunded, our tourist numbers are down, we're not collecting the revenue as we used to in terms of the number of tourists coming in. You have to go the way the economy is going," she said.

DeLeon Guerrero also raised the question "why now?" stating that these tax hikes could've been introduced during a time when the CNMI's economy wasn't in a dire position.

"The question is 'why weren't these tax bills introduced when the economy was good?' Now that the economy is [struggling], you do the opposite. If you impose taxes, the price of goods and services will go up. Businesses may not be able to stay open and if they do, who do they pass that cost to? The consumers. The spending power of people will then go down because the prices of goods and services will go up. There will also be no opportunity for families to save money because everything will go up due to tax increases," she said.

Ultimately, DeLeon Guerrero expresses that the implementation of tax hikes in this current economy has to be carefully thought out.

According to a previous article on *Saipan Tribune*, the CNMI saw a revenue shortfall of about $3 million for fiscal year 2024.

Palacios proposed a tax hike stating that although tax hikes are generally not supported, it might be exactly what the CNMI needs to keep essential government services open.

"Nobody supports tax hikes. We haven't had any adjustments in our tax rates for 30-40 years. It's a tricky thing, it's very sensitive because no matter what it is, nobody wants to see a tax hike. But we need to balance the services that needs to be provided. Now, if revenue is not there, we need to cut services and right now I believe we are at the level with essential services where we can't afford to cut anymore so we have to make those different types of adjustments," he said.

Palacios said he can only propose the idea, but it must go through the legislative process.

"The proposal is to increase the revenue through changing the [tax] rates. I can only propose that, but it needs to go through the legislative process. If that doesn't go through, I have to make other adjustments accordingly," he said.

DONATION TO CHCC CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soroptimist International Northern Mariana Islands Chapter recently donated baby laundry baskets to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s medical social worker department. This program has donated nearly 20 baskets since 2023. SINMI is grateful for the donations received from D&Q International as well as from the club's membership.

KILILI

From page 1

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) over the weekend.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter that the Biden-Harris administration announced last week successful completion of negotiations with drug companies, lowering the costs of Januvia, Jardiance, and other high-cost prescription medicines.

Januvia, a drug for diabetes, has a list price of $527, but the negotiated price is only $113.

Jardiance, a drug for diabetes, heart failure, chronic kidney disease, has a list price of $573, but the negotiated price is only $197.

The other most expensive drugs are Imbruvica for blood cancers with a list price of $14,934, and Stelara for psioriasis, psoriathic arthritis, Crohn's disease, and ulcerative colitis with a list price of $13,836.

The negotiated price for Imbruvica is $9,319, while for Stelara is $4,695.

The Biden-Harris administration disclosed that it has reached agreement for new, lower prices for all 10 drugs selected for negotiations, that will help lower prescription drug prices for millions of people across America.

The administration said negotiated drugs are some of the most expensive and most frequently dispensed drugs in the Medicare program and are used to treat conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer.

Sablan said previously, Medicare Part D patients had to pay list price for these, but the Inflation Reduction Act, P.L. 117-169, which President Joseph Biden signed in 2022, finally gave the federal government the power to negotiate prices, just like any other bulk buyer.

He said prices for 10 drugs will be cut in 2026 and that in 2027, another 15 can be added to the list and 20 per year after that can have costs negotiated and lowered.

The delegate said the Inflation Reduction Act also capped out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare patients at $2,000 per year no matter how expensive the medicines patients need to stay healthy.

The six other negotiated drugs are Eliquis for blood clots; Xarelto for blood clots and coronary artery disease; Farxiga for diabetes, heart failure, and kidney disease; Entresto for heart failure; Enbrel for arthritis, psoriasis, and psoriathic arthritis; and Fiasp for diabetes.

Eliquis has a list price of $521, but the negotiated price is $231; Xarelto has a list price of $517 and $197 is the negotiated price; Farxiga has a list price of $556 and $178.50 is the negotiated price; Entresto has a list price of $628 and $295 is the negotiated price; Enbrel has a list price of $7,106 and $2,355 is the negotiated price; and Fiasp has a list price of $495 and $119 is the negotiated price.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra said in the announcement that Americans pay too much for their prescription drugs and that for the first time ever, Medicare negotiated directly with drug companies and the American people are better off for it.

Becerra said congressional budget estimators (Congressional Budget Office) predicted about $100 billion savings over 10 years from drug negotiations and a $3.7 billion savings in the first year alone.

"Today we're announcing that in our first year of negotiations we are saving Medicare an estimated $6 billion and Americans who pay out of pocket will be saving another $1.5 billion moving forward," the secretary said.

SEARCH

From page 1

Quitano has been missing since she failed to appear in school after it commenced on Tuesday. Concerned family members then reached out to the police, which led to an official search for the girl.

According to a press release from DPS, Quitano's last known interaction was with a friend three nights ago in Kagman. Since then, several attempts to reach her via phone have gone unanswered, resulting in her not appearing in school for nearly a week.

According to witnesses Quitano was last seen wearing a black shirt and sweatpants as she went aboard an SUV in Kagman. However, witnesses were unable to provide details regarding what brand the vehicle was or its model or color.

DPS assistant chief of police and acting public information officer Simon Manacop, shared that there are currently no new updates, but they will share more information as it comes along. He said that DPS continues to urge the community to report any information that could assist in locating the missing teen.

"We are asking anyone who may have seen Tegan or had any recent contact with her to come forward," said Manacop. "Your information could be crucial in bringing her home safely."

Alongside the search, family members have also taken to social media for help in locating the girl. In a Facebook post, Quitano's mother asked for the community's help in locating her daughter, also adding that her daughter had been "in the company of Abong Camacho." When commenting on a news network's post she said to her daughter "Tegan, just come home. Don't be scared. I won't get mad. Just come home. Please."

Since the announcement, many community members have rallied together to keep an eye out for the teen and on social media, many expressed their thoughts and prayers for the family.

Those with information about Tegan Quitano are encouraged to contact the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau at (670) 664-9042, the DPS Headquarters at (670) 664-9001, or the Crime Stoppers Hotline at (670) 234-7272. Callers who wish to remain anonymous may do so.

CCC

From page 1

board meeting to discuss updates on IPI's Chapter 11 bankruptcy which has now shifted to a liquidation rather than reorganization.

During the board meeting, CCC board chair Edward Deleon Gurrero stated that if IPI really will be selling off its assets, including the resort casino in Garapan, without a license, then there is no reason to stay revocation proceedings.

"IPI and a list of creditors have reached an agreement...to sell IPI's assets. I want to see that agreement. It appears that IPI is selling the leasehold of its property, both prepaid lease and DPL lease, and the building, all the assets inside, but not the license itself. Now, if they're no longer interested in selling the license, then there's no reason at all to hold back the stay on revocation proceedings," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said CCC still wants to pursue revocation proceedings and with a new CCC board nominee awaiting confirmation, CCC will have quorum even if he recuses himself.

"CCC wants to pursue this and lift the stay in order for CCC to continue with its deliberation. Since we now have a new appointee, once he is confirmed, quorum will no longer be an issue to continue revocation," he said.

Currently, IPI owes CCC over $17 million in fees and obligations under its license agreement and the entire CNMI over $95 million.

Last week, IPI filed a motion asking the court to approve bid procedures for sale of substantially all of IPI's assets.

According to the motion, IPI and a committee of IPI creditors have finalized the terms of a proposed sale of essentially all of IPI's assets to a "stalking horse purchaser."

A "stalking horse purchaser" essentially agrees to buy all of a debtor's assets subject to higher and better bids and subject to approval by a bankruptcy court.

The motion named Loi Lim Sit as the proposed "stalking horse purchaser," the same individual who agreed to loan IPI $1.4 million in debtor-in-possession financing.

The motion further states that the "stalking horse purchaser" has agreed upon a purchase price of $10 million for all of IPI's assets.

The assets to be acquired includes all tangible property, accounts, machinery, equipment, inventories, tenant improvements, goodwill, software and computer programs, hardware, intellectual property, company names, product names, trade names, prepaid expenses, and more.

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramon Manglona has scheduled a status conference on the matter for Nov. 20, 2024.

Smoke testing for Texas Road, CK this Tuesday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that smoke tests will be conducted in Texas Road, Chalan Kanoa tomorrow, Aug. 27, from 9am to 3pm. The purpose of the smoke test is to locate leaks, breaks, and illegal connections in CUC's sewer system.

About the smoke test

A smoke test is a sewer inspection method whereby nontoxic smoke is forced into sewer system access points. The smoke travels through all connected pipes in the sewer system, indicating pipe leaks, breached utility holes, cracks, uncapped lines, and other defects.

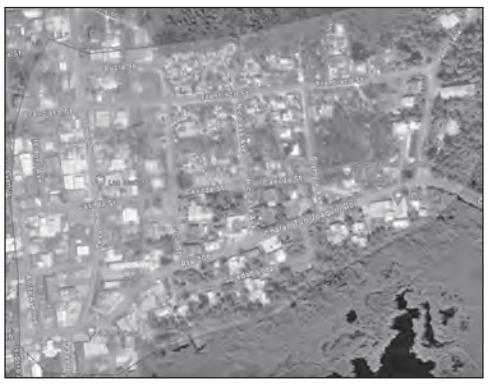
Testers can also locate unknown pipe sections, such as cleanouts, downspouts, and sump pumps.

The smoke is nontoxic, nonhazardous, and is manufactured specifically for this purpose. It leaves no residue or stains and has no effects on plants or animals. The smoke is not expected to enter your home; however, if it does, it will have a distinct odor and should clear out within a few minutes with proper ventilation. Please be advised that all plumbing fixture drain traps must be filled with water before the test.

To ensure the safety of the CUC crew, certain roadways will be closed during the testing period to allow the Wastewater crew to access the manholes. Motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the area or take alternative routes.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding in helping identify customer connections. It aims to conduct these tests efficiently while minimizing disruption to customers' daily activities. By proactively engaging in this testing, CUC reaffirms its commitment to providing reliable wastewater services for the community.

For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. For emergencies, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***



CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s smoke tests that will be conducted in Texas Road, Chalan Kanoa tomorrow, Aug. 27,

'Journey to the Hill' set for Sept. 19

Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands is hosting its fourth bi-annual "Journey to the Hill" forum, which will showcase all of the female candidates seeking election in 2024.

This is not a political forum. It is just a forum for the female candidates to tell the public about themselves, who were their mentors growing up, what made them decide to want to be a public servant, etc.

The event this year will be held at the American Memorial Park Theater, starting at 5pm on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024. Light refreshments will be served.

The event is free to the public. ***(PR)***

KARIDAT
Faith, Hope and
Catholic Charities - Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) SHELTER WORKER

For more information or interested applicants can email: info@karidat.org to receive a position description and fillable form.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED: A completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, September 6, 2024 AT 4:00 PM

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

Procurement of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Equipment (Supply, Install, Train, Test, Commissioning and Preventive Maintenance Service)

RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-027

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Richard C. Miller, FO458
BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER LLC
Macaranas Building, First Floor
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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-5684
Email: RMiller@pacificlawyers.law

Attorneys for Petitioner/Plaintiff Joaquin C. Sablan

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOAQUIN CHISATO SABLAN,	]	CML CASE NO. 23-0203-CV
Petitioner/Plaintiff,	]	SUMMONS
vs.	]	
XIAO YAN CHEN INDALECIO, THOMAS HENRY ZHU INDALECIO, APRIL RITA ZHU INDALECIO, YVONNE ZHU INDALECIO, JASMINE ANA ZHU INDALECIO, EDWIN JOSEPH SABLAN INDALECIO, LUIS TAIMANAO INDALECIO, BRENDA ANN SABLAN INDALECIO, RITA INDALECIO REYES, FRANCES DANIELL, FRANCES T. DANIEL TUDELA, AND DOES 1-25, INCLUDING ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, OR INTEREST IN LOT NO. 549-C,	]	
Respondents/ Defendants.]	]	

TO DEFENDANTS:
(1) APRIL RITA ZHU INDALECIO
(2) THOMAS HENRY ZHU INDALECIO
(3) YVONNE ZHU INDALECIO
(4) JASMINE ANA ZHU INDALECIO

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court any answer you wish to make to the Verified Petition to Quiet Title and Complaint in Ejectment and Trespass in the above-captioned case ("Verified Petition"), a copy of which is available from the Clerk of Court for the CNMI Superior Court. You may also receive a copy of Verified Petition by contacting Plaintiff's attorneys:

BANES HOREY BERMAN & MILLER, LLC
P.O. Box 501969
4165 Beach Road, First Floor, Macaranas Building, Garapan
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 789-8176
Email: cnmi@pacificlawyers.law

Your answer is due within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Summons in a newspaper of general publication in the CNMI. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Petition.

Dated: this 22nd day of August, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

PAIMI Advisory Council Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a PAIMI Advisory Council member for a **VOLUNTEER POSITION** for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The PAIMI Advisory Council or PAC is comprised of ten (10) volunteer members who serve one-year terms which consist of four (4) fiscal years. The ideal candidate will have the strong desire to advise the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program on policies and priorities to be carried out in protecting and advocating for the rights of individuals with mental illness. The interested individual must be a person who receive or have received mental health services; who is knowledgeable about issues surrounding individuals with mental illness; a service provider to individuals who receive or have received mental health services; or a family member of individuals who receive or have received mental health services. The Advisory Council responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Approving the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the council
- Electing officers
- Approving membership requirements
- Approving the Council's By-Laws
- Preparing and submitting a report that describes the activities of itself and its assessment of the operations of the Protection & Advocacy System no later than January 1 of each year following the fiscal year
- Advising on policies and priorities of the PAIMI Program
- Reviewing and assessing the operations of the PAIMI Program
- Complying with federal mandated requirements; and
- On an annual basis, assisting in providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the priorities established by, and activities of the Program.

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to NMPASI Executive Director, Gregory Borja, in person at the NMPASI office located at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on the 5th floor in room #505 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Deadline for submission: no later than **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Gregory Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org with any questions and/or concerns.

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.
PO Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. Nos.: (670) 235-7273/4 - Fax: (670) 235-7275

Board of Directors Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for a **VOLUNTEER POSITION** for the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc. (NMPASI). NMPASI is a non-profit, private corporation whose mission is to protect the human, civil, and legal rights of individuals with disabilities.

The Board of Directors is comprised of eleven (11) volunteer members who serve four-year terms. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote NMPASI mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. The interested individual must be a person with a disability; knowledgeable about the needs of people with disabilities; a parent/guardian of a person with a disability; or an immediate relative of a person with a mentally impairing disability. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular quarterly meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for NMPASI's programs;
- developing and insuring adherence to policies and procedures that establish the purposes, overall programmatic directions and structure of the organization;
- electing officers of the board in accordance with the by-laws;
- approving new members and membership requirements;
- approving, repealing, altering and/or amending by-laws;
- reviewing, approving, amending annual budgets;
- recruiting, hiring, evaluating, and if deemed necessary, terminating and removing the Executive Director or the organization in accordance with established policies and procedures;
- reviewing and approving annual Statement of Goals and Priorities and other reports including, but not limited to regular and special meeting minutes of the Board;
- approving contracts and other instruments of a contractual nature in accordance with established policies and procedures; and
- carrying out all other duties in furtherance of the purposes in accordance with established policies and procedures

Interested persons shall submit a written letter addressed to the Board Secretary, Sherry Pangelinan, and to NMPASI Executive Director, Gregory Borja, in person at the NMPASI office located at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe on the 5th floor in room #505 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org.

Deadline for submission: no later than **Monday, September 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.**

Please contact Greg Borja at (670) 235-7273 or via email at gborja@nmpasi.org with any questions and/or concerns.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Harris should fight Trump with a better Bidenomics

Vice President Kamala Harris began to set out her economic agenda last week and will doubtless say more about it when she speaks at the Democratic National Convention on Thursday. Unsurprisingly, her program is shaping up to be Bidenomics 2.0—which is mostly a good thing. An emphasis on the energy transition and wider economic opportunity is quite right. The question is whether her administration will aim to strengthen the first version or double down on its weaknesses.

The spending plans Harris has started to outline are a more expansive version of President Joe Biden's latest budget. Notably, they include substantially bigger increases in the Child Tax Credit (with a credit of $6,000 for newborns). Desirable as this and other new outlays might be, they aren't free, and there's little sign yet of how they'll be paid for.

Without Harris's enhancements, the administration's budget envisaged deficits of close to 5% of gross domestic product over the coming decade, with net public debt remaining well over 100% of GDP. This assumes higher taxes on corporations, robust economic growth and no new downturns. It also assumes that most of Donald Trump's 2017 tax cuts are allowed to expire at the end of next year. Yet Harris affirms Biden's promise that taxes won't go up for the vast majority of Americans (those making less than $400,000). How will the additional costs be covered? No answer.

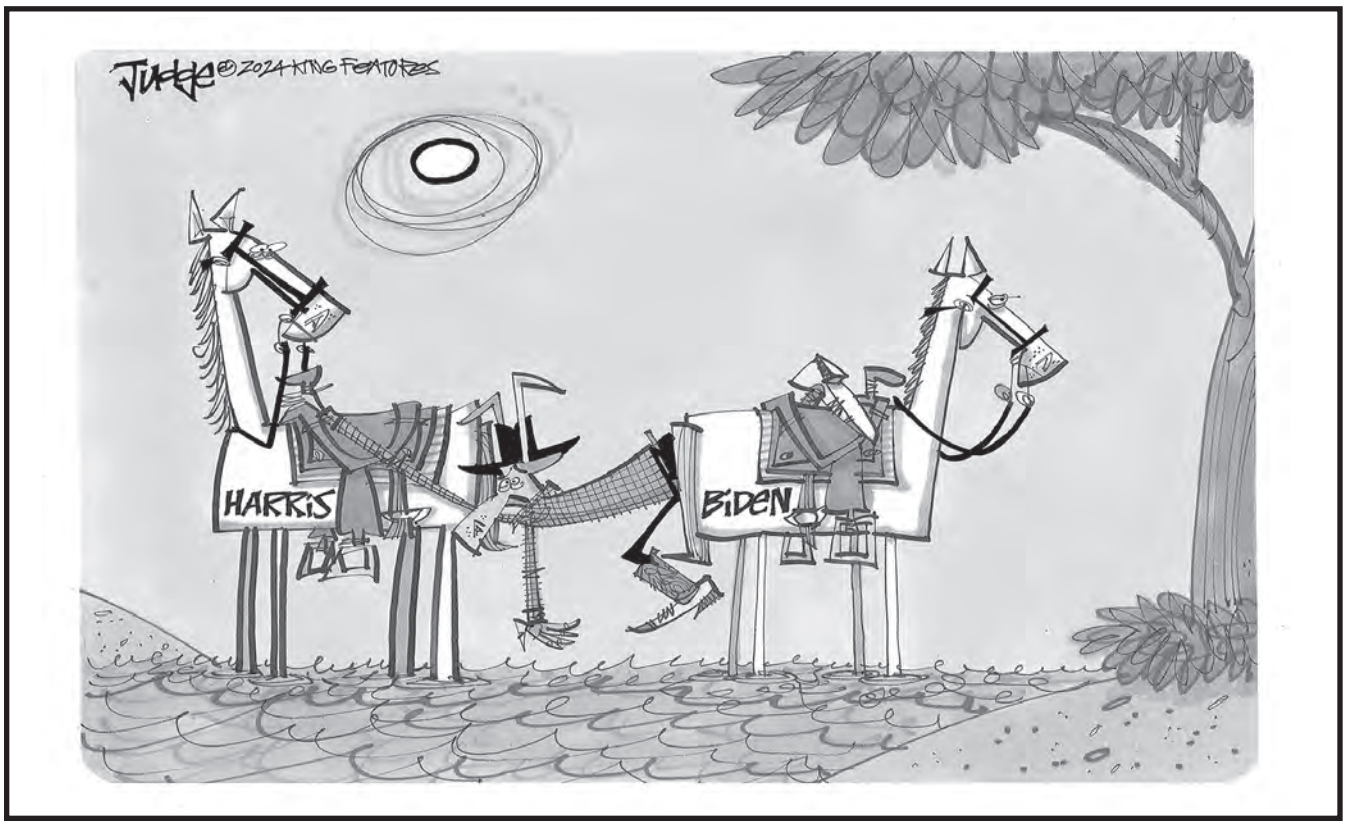
Harris says she's committed to fiscal responsibility and plans to make the richest Americans and the biggest corporations pay their "fair share." In truth, without higher taxes on many middle-class households, the government's debts will continue to mount unsustainably. She can reject broadly based tax increases or be a fiscally responsible president—but, with these new spending ambitions, she can't honestly promise both.

Along with fiscal excess, the other main defect in Bidenomics has been failing to see how market forces can enhance or cripple well-intentioned interventions. Harris rightly promises to increase the supply of housing, recognizing that the gap between supply and demand is why home prices have surged. Yet she also promises first-time buyers a subsidy of $25,000—again, a more generous version of a proposal in Biden's budget. Aside from the budgetary cost, the problem is obvious: With demand outpacing supply, this new credit will mostly push prices higher and be collected by sellers.

Another such error—widely panned, including by some Democrats—is her promised "first-ever federal ban on price gouging on food and groceries." Food prices soared during the pandemic because of supply disruptions and heavy demand fueled by public support, not because of "bad actors" in a highly competitive industry with slender margins. Price controls have been tried in country after country, time and again. They invariably fail.

It bears emphasizing that Harris's economic agenda, flawed as it might be, would still be preferable to Trump's – whether his proposals are taken either literally or seriously. Harris has rightly attacked the former president's idea of a comprehensive new tariff, for instance. ("We are going to have 10% to 20% tariffs on foreign countries that have been ripping us off for years," as he put it.) That's a recipe for higher consumer

See HARRIS on Page 7



How Ukraine can press its advantage after seizing Russian territory

By MIKHAIL ALEXSEEV
Los Angeles Times

Mikhail Alexseev, a professor of international relations at San Diego State University, is the author of "Without Warning: Threat Assessment, Intelligence, and Global Struggle" and principal investigator of the War, Democracy and Society project funded by the National Science Foundation.

Through the summer, the mood in Ukraine was darkening. Daily air alerts. Burning and ruined power plants, hospitals, apartment blocks and shopping centers. Reports of Russia capturing yet another Ukrainian settlement. Mounting casualties. International military assistance increasingly looking like too little, too late. Breaking with his cool, steadfast optimism, a friend of mine in Ukraine lamented: "The West is cowardly. They don't help us enough. They fear Putin too much."

It was not just his view. In my opinion polls in May and June with Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociologyw—funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation—78% of 477 Ukrainians we tracked saw Western military aid as insufficient for Ukraine to repel Russia's invasion—up from 65% a year ago.

Then came Aug. 6, and since then my family, friends and colleagues have started sounding cautiously upbeat.

That was the day Ukrainian forces crossed into Russia's Kursk province. Seizing more territory from Russia in days than Russia seized from Ukraine in a year, Ukrainian troops cut off vital supply roads, blew up two key bridges, destroyed Russian forces heading toward Ukraine, captured an underground ammunition depot and took hundreds of Russian prisoners of war, with some entire units surrendering.

It is now Moscow, not Kyiv, asking to swap prisoners. Russian units started relocating toward this region and away from other fronts in the war, potentially easing the pressure on Ukraine's defenses.

Can these successes give Ukraine leverage to end the war? The answer is twofold.

On one hand, Russia's war machine is huge, its coffers are brimming with cash from energy exports, and it gets drones, missiles and shells from Iran and North Korea. While Ukraine scores in Kursk, Russia, on average, keeps firing 4,000 artillery rounds, launching 100 massive glide bombs and mounting more than 120 infantry assaults along the 600-mile front every day. Russian ground forces close in on Pokrovsk, a critical stronghold in Ukraine's east. Putin doesn't budge.

On the other hand, Ukraine's push north is precisely the kind of action that stands the best chance of eventually bringing this war to an end. Critically, Ukraine has signaled to the Kremlin that it has the audacity to surprise Russia and do things Russian forces may be unable to counter. Think of Operation Ocean Venture of the 1980s: U.S. air sorties deep into Russia from carriers improbably parked in icy Norwegian fjords ultimately convinced the Soviet top brass they could not stop us. This helped end the Cold War.

It is Putin now who is on the defensive and has to guess. Where may Ukrainian forces move next, given the absence of defense lines? Can they strike the Russian forces advancing on Ukraine from the rear? Would they attempt to take over the Kursk nuclear power plant? What may they do after seizing the only hub through which Russia's natural gas flows to Europe?

History tells us that to end the war Ukraine will need to keep surprising Russia. And Ukraine will need U.S. help. Some support is already happening: While Ukraine uses Western military gear inside Russia, the Biden administration has not publicly called on Kyiv to pull back. Showing bipartisan support, U.S. Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., visited Kyiv and called Ukraine's Kursk operation "bold and brilliant." These are important signals to Putin that he cannot endlessly exploit U.S. fears of escalation and U.S. self-deterrence.

More will be needed. Getting Moscow to face more uncertainty is key. The obvious next move is to lift the American ban on how far inside Russia Ukraine can fire the longer-range weapons Washington and its allies have provided, while helping Ukraine stay committed to its disciplined practice of restricting strikes to military and related targets. The goal is not for Ukraine to wantonly destroy any Russian airfield or shoot down any Russian warplane as far as the Caspian Sea, but it is key that Putin realize Kyiv can and might do so.

Ukraine would also benefit if the Biden administration would endorse Graham's idea to make it possible for retired U.S. F-16 pilots to volunteer for service in Ukraine. This would reverse the unfortunate signals we sent to Moscow when it became known not enough Ukrainian pilots were trained to fly the F-16s Kyiv received this summer.

For the Kursk venture to become a game changer, we need to help Ukraine make Putin worry harder. Are any Russian warships, air defense systems, logistical hubs, lines of supply or communication infrastructure safe? What if Washington talks to Turkey about letting U.S. naval ships enter the Black Sea? What if ships carrying North Korean missiles to Russia are blockaded?

Americans have a real opportunity now not only to help Ukraine but also to seize the deterrence initiative and make Putin think twice before harming the U.S. or our allies anywhere.

Of course, Ukraine faces multiple risks as well. But as a friend in Kyiv summed it up: "Kursk raises big uncertainties. And 90% of them are not in Russia's favor."

Can Harris run on love and joy? Ask Michelle Obama

By FRANCIS WILKINSON
Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S, politics and policy. Previously, he was executive editor for the Week and a writer for Rolling Stone.

Can a political party run on love? Something like that is going on at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago this week. There has been much talk of the "joy" engendered by the Democrats' happy warriors, Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

But it's notable that one of Harris' campaign themes is simply, "We love America"—meaning the America that actually is and not the America imagined in a nostalgic, reactionary haze.

On the convention stage Tuesday night, love took on new political dimensions. The three main speeches were distinct, yet each was ultimately about love and its promise of redemption to a disconsolate nation. It may prove to be the most powerful theme of the week.

First Gentleman Doug Emhoff's speech focused on his love for his wife, and her love for his family and others. In Emhoff's telling, Harris' love redeemed and reshaped his family, making it larger, stronger, better. "I love you so much," Emhoff said to his spouse.

Former First Lady Michelle Obama, however, was the centerpiece of the night's message. While Emhoff spoke of personal love, Obama, one of the most widely admired people in America, rose to a higher spiritual plane. Her remarks were implicitly Christian, universal, and frontally opposed to the pinched Christian nationalism that permeates the GOP—which combines the vengeance of the Old Testament with the performative aggression of WrestleMania. Her remarks were also closely consistent with something Harris herself had said at the start of her 2020 presidential campaign, when she remarked that "to love the religion of Jesus is to hate the religion of the slave master."

On Tuesday night, Obama said that her own parents "did not aspire to be wealthy. In fact, they were suspicious of folks who took more than they needed. They understood that it wasn't enough for their kids to thrive if everyone else around us was drowning." At a convention in which the word "freedom" appears everywhere on signs and speeches, Obama offered a Democratic liberation theology. (Earlier, on the same stage, Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock, a Baptist pastor, had likened voting to a "kind of prayer.")

Obama placed her mother's Christian service, a manifestation of love, in political context. Her mother, Obama said, had "the belief that if you do unto others, if you love thy neighbor, if you work and scrape and sacrifice, it will pay off." This was no prosperity gospel; it was Christian ethics as a building block of the American Dream.

Obama offered the audience redemption through works. It serves no purpose to worry. If you feel anxious or upset about the nation's political peril, she had only one remedy: "Do something!"

In their political appeal to freedom, the Democrats have joined the Christian "love thy neighbor" to the libertarian "mind your own damned business," which has become a Walz applause line. In her speech, Obama cast Christian nationalist condemnation of nonconformism as another sign of solipsism and cowardice. "Demonizing our children for being who they are and loving who they love, look, that doesn't make anybody's life better," Obama said. "Instead, it only makes us small."

Barack Obama's speech had to carry more political water than his wife's, with dutiful references to policies where Michelle Obama relied on moral lessons. Obama, who once had to explain his pastor's exhortation of "God damn America," now seeks to blunt the "American carnage" rhetoric of Donald Trump, which reaches the same cynical end from a different starting point.

Like his wife, the former president directly targeted Trump. But he spared the larger MAGA community. "Our fellow citizens deserve the same grace we hope they'll extend to us," he said. And he embedded "love thy neighbor" and "live and let live" at the center of the Democratic creed:

Together, Kamala and Tim have kept faith with America's central story: a story that says, 'We are all created equal.' All of us are endowed with certain inalienable rights. That everyone deserves a chance. That even when we don't agree with each other, we can find a way to live with each other. That's Kamala's vision. That's Tim's vision. That's the Democratic Party's vision.

Summoning Lincoln, who sought to bridge a greater gulf, Obama called for the restoration of national "bonds of affection."

Earlier in the evening, former Trump White House aide Stephanie Grisham spoke of Trump in blunt terms, portraying a man too weak to love, and too psychologically and morally broken to lead. "He has no empathy, no morals and no fidelity to the truth." Grisham said.

Democrats have tried to fact-check Trump. They have tried to shame him, ridicule him, outflank him and even out-outrage him. They have waited for the fever to break, and waited nearly as long for justice to be served. Nothing has quite done the trick. Trump remains at large, and the republic in peril.

Yet love is not the message of an insecure party, uncertain of its path. After the wrenching political reaction of MAGA, and the retrenchment and self-preservation inspired by a pandemic, Democrats are beckoning Americans to leave their protective shells, assuring them that they will find both safety and freedom in community.

"We love America."

Warren Hern is one of the country's few late-term abortion doctors. This is what drives him

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Warren Hern is every bit as intense as you would expect of someone who has been threatened with death for most of his career.

One of the few American physicians who performs late-term abortions, the 86-year-old has perhaps more than any other doctor been on the front lines of the war over reproductive rights.

He has been shot at, spat at, cursed and harassed. He has been protected by federal and local law enforcement. He will not sit with his back to the door of a restaurant.

Hern has lived in perpetual fear of assassination by political terrorists. That is what happened to his dear friend, the late-term abortion specialist George Tiller, who was murdered in his Wichita, Kan., church by a Christian extremist in 2009. I bumped into Hern at the Denver airport when we were both en route to Tiller's funeral. I didn't realize he was traveling with a protective detail until I saw two men in suits tense up as I approached him to say hello.

"George was a wonderful guy, a normal person—as distinguished from me—kind and forgiving and a Christian and all that stuff," he told me Monday from Boulder, Colo., his dry sense of humor evident. His voice softened: "We were great friends, and I miss him."

It is no wonder that Hern wears his contempt for abortion foes on his sleeve.

"The criminalization of abortion under Republicans and Trump is a catastrophe for women," he said. "It has become a collective psychosis. Why should a doctor who helps women have to work in secret behind bulletproof windows?"

Hern, a prolific writer, has a forthcoming memoir, "Abortion in the Age of Unreason." It is a detailed chronicle of his life and times, an insider's account of internecine struggles in the abortion rights movement, and a 350-page declaration of his enduring commitment to critically needed healthcare despite the danger he faces daily.

At the beginning of his career, Hern had no intention of becoming a famous abortion provider. He aspired to be an epidemiologist in academia and public health before he came to his calling.

As a young man, the Denver native lived for six months with the Shipibo-Conibo people of the Peruvian Amazon and worked as a Peace Corps doctor in Brazil. He was inspired to specialize in abortion care after witnessing Latin American hospital wards filled with women suffering the consequences of unsafe abortions.

Later, he was recruited by the federal Office of Economic Opportunity—an outgrowth of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty—to open family planning clinics around the country, which gave him his first exposure to the vitriolic politics around reproductive rights.

In January 1975, two years after *Roe vs. Wade*, Hern opened his own abortion clinic in Boulder. Two weeks later, at home in the middle of the night, he received his first death threat.

"I had so many death threats, I thought about setting up a death threat hotline," Hern writes. "'You want to threaten Dr. Hern's life? Easy. Give the operator your name, address, phone number and credit card number for quick relief. Only $5 a minute, talk as long as you like!'"

Almost all his procedures are in the late stages of pregnancy, usually because the fetus has a catastrophic medical condition or the pregnancy endangers the woman's health. Late-term abortion is difficult for all involved — patients, families, doctors, nurses and the rest of the clinic staff. Hern does not shy away from the hard stuff.

"Our whole entire evolutionary experience is to take care of small helpless creatures, including human babies," he said. "That's the core biocultural problem with this."

Recently, he told me, a younger doctor he is training felt he had to leave the operating room during a procedure for a woman who was 34 weeks pregnant. "This was rather disconcerting to her," he said, "and I told her there was nothing wrong with feeling that way."

There have been times when he had to gather himself privately after a procedure.

For decades, Hern has advanced the iconoclastic position that pregnancy is not different from disease. In almost all cases, childbirth is far more dangerous than abortion.

"Pregnancy is not a benign condition," he writes. "It can kill you." He cites the 17th century French physician François Mauriceau's description of pregnancy as a "disease of nine months."

"The treatment of choice for pregnancy is abortion unless the woman wants to carry the pregnancy to term and have a baby," he concludes. "That is a view that is abhorrent to those who believe that the purpose of women, aside from giving men pleasure and doing the housework, is to have as many babies as possible."

In this post-Roe moment, abortion rights are expected to play an important role in the November election, which pits the adamantly pro-choice Vice President Kamala Harris against former President Trump, whose ultraconservative Supreme Court has wreaked havoc on the lives of American women.

On Monday, three women took the stage at the Democratic National Convention to describe the horrific effects of the abortion bans enacted by more than a dozen states after the court overturned Roe in 2022.

"I was lucky. I lived," said Amanda Zurawski, whose doctors in Texas waited until she was at death's door and miscarrying at 18 weeks before they would perform an abortion.

"I was in pain, bleeding so much my husband feared for my life," said Kaitlyn Joshua, who was refused abortion care in Louisiana when she miscarried at 11 weeks.

Twenty-two-year-old Hadley Duvall, impregnated at 12 by her stepfather, quoted Trump's boast that state abortion bans are "a beautiful thing."

"What is so beautiful," she asked, "about a child having to carry her parent's child?"

Given his half a century of work in the face of derision and danger, I asked Dr. Hern if he still found joy in his work.

"I love it," he said.

Hern remembers one early patient who had obtained an illegal abortion, a frightening, humiliating experience.

"Please don't ever stop doing this," she told him.

"So," he writes, "I didn't."

HARRIS

From page 6

prices, reduced growth and deteriorating global relations.

Harris could underline the threat Trump poses to American prosperity more effectively by standing up for fiscal responsibility, restraining her appetite for micro-management and recognizing the market economy as her ally in serving the public.

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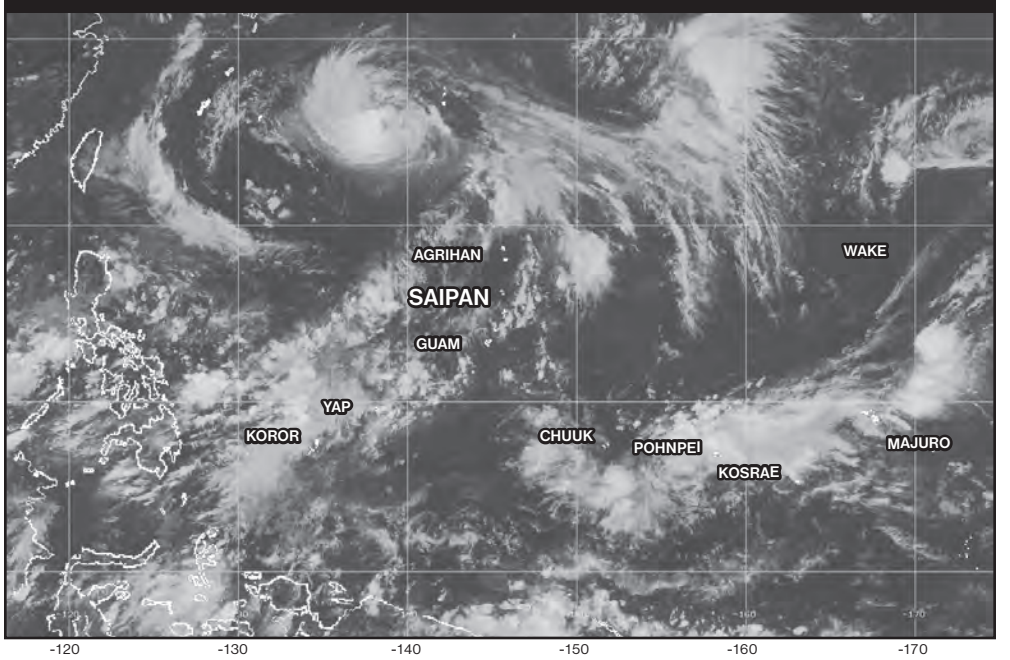
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.	A chance of showers. Partly sunny.
86º 81º	86º 81º	86º 81º	86º 81º	86º 81º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:13 AM SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Not a whole lot has changed over night. The marianas still remains in an area of convergence. Isolated showers are anticipated for the islands themselves and Isolated showers and thunderstorms are anticipated for the coastal regions. This split is due to the area of convergence remaining to the east of the Marianas and being pulled northward with Typhoon Shanshan.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 79°
Palau	Cloudy	89° / 79°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	84° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	88° / 77°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87° / 77°
Kosrae	Cloudy	87° / 78°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 82°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:33 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:10 PM	11:39 PM
Tuesday	-	1:11 PM	-
Wednesday	12:33 AM	2:11 PM	-
Thursday	1:30 AM	3:07 PM	-
Friday	2:28 AM	3:59 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	59° / 55°
Beijing	Fair	89° / 76°
Hong Kong	Fair	92° / 80°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Sunny	85° / 65°
Los Angeles	Sunny	90° / 67°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 80°
Melbourne	Rain	56° / 49°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
New York	Clear	82° / 66°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	95° /79°
Paris	Showers	81° / 65°
Busan	Thunderstorms	88° / 80°
Rome	Thunderstorms	89° / 68°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	90° / 70°
San Francisco	Cloudy	73° / 58°
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 76°
Tokyo	Fair	92° / 79°
Washington, DC	Clear	85° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
7:02 AM	Low Tide	0.14
2:08 PM	High Tide	1.71
7:02 PM	Low Tide	1.30
-	-	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:50PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3472	11:05AM	4:40PM	Daily (July 17 to Aug 17)
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:25PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

LOCAL

Schedule of power service interruptions Aug. 27-30

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there will be scheduled power service interruptions from Aug. 27 to 30, 2024.

Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024
Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-2:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Chalan Kiya
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

Momentary Power Service Interruption Times: 8:30am-9am and 2pm-2:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Portions of Chalan Kiya
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace three 45-foot wooden power poles with concrete poles.

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024
Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-2:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Portions of Chalan Pale Arnold (Sugar King Park, Hanmi Hardware, White Coconut Computer Services, Pacific Quick Print, SJ Corporation, Mobil Middle Road Service Station, JG Sablan Ice & Water, Inc., and LJ's Store), Flores Rosa St., Dama De Noche St., Asusena Ave., and Fishing Base St.
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-9
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: China Town Traffic Light

Momentary Power Service Interruption Times: 8:30am-9:00am and 2pm to 2:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Route 38, Alaihai Ave. (Bank of Guam, DFS, I Love Saipan, and D'Elegance), Puti Tainobui Ave., Filooris Ave., Kalachuchi Ave. (Shirley's Coffee Shop and 99 Cents Store), Bukiki Ave. (Himawari), Upper Miha Housing (Gobietno Dr., Magalahi Dr., Adilanto Lp., and Mayot Ave.
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: S-9
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: DFS Traffic Lights
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace two (2) 45-foot wooden power poles with concrete poles.

CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on Aug. 28.

CUC

The map of Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s scheduled power service interruption on Aug. 29.

Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024
Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-12:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Portions of Flame Tree Rd. (Holiday Dr., Independence Lp., and Natibu Pl.
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace a 35-foot wooden stub power pole with a concrete pole, and straighten a 45-foot leaning concrete pole.

Friday, Aug. 30, 2024
Power Service Interruption Time: 8:30am-2:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: Portions of Lower Base (Cargo Express, NMTech, and Winners Hardware), Pagu Ave. (Triple J Motors Saipan, The Water Company, IT&E Warehouse, Micronesia Renewable Energy Inc., and CNMI Recycling Center.
- Water Well(s) Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: None
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: None

Momentary Power Service Interruption Times: 8:30am-9am and 2pm-2:30pm

- Area(s) Affected: As Mahetog, Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi
- Water Well(s) Affected: Tanapag, Achugao, and San Roque (customers in these areas may experience low to no water pressure based on tank levels)
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: SR-1, SR-2, SR-3, and T-1
- Traffic Light(s) Affected: Saipan Ice Traffic Lights
- Purpose: To allow CUC linemen to replace two 45-foot wooden power poles with concrete poles.

CUC appreciates the public's cooperation and understanding as CUC works to ensure reliable service for its customers. For more information, contact CUC's hotline at (670) 236-4333, visit its website, and monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates. In case of an emergency, contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282. ***(PR)***

Business

Tudela named to prestigious SBDC 40 Under 40 awards

The Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network are proud to announce the recognition of its lead center's marketing manager and outreach specialist Roman Franklin M. Tudela as one of the nation's 40 recipients of the prestigious America's SBDC's 40 Under 40 awards.

The 40 Under 40 awards aim to spotlight the extraordinary contributions of individuals under 40 across America's Small Business Development Centers who have significantly impacted their local networks and the broader business landscape.

Tudela will also be recognized as the CNMI Network's 2024 State Star, an award determined through an internal selection process by the team members of the CNMI SBDC amongst its three center locations on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Tudela started his employment with the CNMI SBDC Network in March 2023. Since then, he has been an active contributor to the network's success by coordinating projects such as the design of the CNMI SBDC's website and conducting training opportunities for its clients namely the widely popular "Brick and Mortar to Click and Order," a social media-centric training on how to market your business online using platforms such as Instagram and Facebook.

Additionally, Tudela leads in the network's outreach efforts including training presentations for aspiring business owners, outreach presentations at partner events such as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, collegiate events with its host institution, the Northern Marianas College, and high school engagements where he draws on his experiences as an NMC alumnus and his professional role as the Marketing Manager for the CNMI Network.

Following the announcement of Tudela's recognition, network director of the CNMI SBDC Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero stated, "Roman is a stellar member of the CNMI SBDC Network team. Much can be attributed to the successes of our organization's online and community presence through his tireless efforts and dedication to moving the SBDC's mission forward not just as an individual, but more importantly, as a team player. We are very fortunate to have him onboard."

Tudela is the president of the Society for Human Resources Management CNMI Chapter, and is a sitting member of the Northern Marianas College Foundation representing the college's alumni as the organization's president. Tudela received his Master in Business Administration through the University

» Also named CNMI SBDC's 2024 State Star

of Texas of the Permian Basin in 2019, and his Bachelor of Science in Business Management from the Northern Marianas College in 2018.

Tudela

Tudela mentions these accolades have made him reflect on experiences spanning his lifetime, "Growing up in my grandfather's general store, Tudela Enterprises, in the village of San Vicente, I didn't realize at the time that what seemed like just a regular day was actually a hands-on education in running a small business. That early experience gave me a head start in understanding the intricacies of business, and it's been an underlying passion that has driven me through my education and career. Being honored with the America's SBDC 40 Under 40 and State Star Award for the CNMI SBDC Network is not just about my efforts; it's a tribute to the incredible support I've received from my family, friends, and colleagues. This recognition reflects the legacy of work that's come before me, the dedication happening now, and the continued efforts we'll make to strengthen small businesses across the CNMI." Every year, among a pool of accomplished young entrepreneurs, the distinguished panel of judges in America's SBDC Millennial Interest Group select 40 remarkable winners who stand out for their exceptional business acumen, innovative thinking, and commitment to driving growth and success.

Tudela joins the ranks of distinguished colleagues from the CNMI SBDC Network, including Deleon Guerrero, Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec, and Benjamin "Huk" Borja, who were nationally recognized as recipients of America's SBDC 40 Under 40 awards in 2023. The Northern Marianas College is proud to announce that another member of its team has earned a place on this prestigious list this year.

"Our Proa Tribe is incredibly proud to see Roman, a son of the Marianas, be recognized as one of SBDC's 40 under 40," said NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "This national recognition is a reaffirmation of the great outreach work he has done as SBDC's marketing manager in promoting our events and programs dedicated to building up the entrepreneurial capacity of the Marianas. We're thrilled to see more great work come out of SBDC as we continue our work of rebuilding our economy through the development of small businesses." America's Small Business Development Center comprises over 1,000 local service centers. Of these centers, only 40 were selected from the nomination pool. America's SBDC launched the 40 Under 40 Award to recognize outstanding young SBDC staff across the nation who demonstrate innovation, leadership, and commitment to the SBDC mission. The winners will be celebrated at a reception during the 45th Annual America's SBDC Conference on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Georgia where Tudela will be joined by the CNMI SBDC team as well as other recipients across the country. America's SBDC is the association that represents the nationwide network of Small Business Development Centers, the most comprehensive small business assistance network in the United States and its territories. Hosted by leading universities, colleges, state economic development agencies, and private partners, nearly 1,000 local centers provide management and technical assistance to help Americans start, run, and grow their own businesses. SBDCs are funded in part by Congress through a partnership with the U.S. Small Business Administration. ***(PR)***

Nation

AFTER SUSPENDING PRESIDENTIAL BID

RFK Jr. backs Donald Trump

PHOENIX (AP)—Robert F. Kennedy Jr. suspended his independent campaign for the White House and endorsed Donald Trump on Friday, a late-stage shakeup of the race that could give the former president a modest boost from Kennedy's supporters.

Hours later, Kennedy joined Trump onstage at an Arizona rally, where the crowd burst into "Bobby!" cheers.

Kennedy said his internal polls had shown that his presence in the race would hurt Trump and help Democratic nominee Kamala Harris, though recent public polls don't provide a clear indication that he is having an outsize impact on support for either major-party candidate.

Kennedy cited free speech, the war in Ukraine and "a war on our children" as among the reasons he would try to remove his name from the ballot in battleground states.

"These are the principal causes that persuaded me to leave the Democratic Party and run as an independent, and now to throw my support to President Trump," Kennedy said at his event in Phoenix.

However, he made clear that he wasn't formally ending his bid and said his supporters could continue to back him in the majority of states where they are unlikely to sway the outcome. Kennedy took steps to withdraw his candidacy in at least two states late this week, Arizona and Pennsylvania, but election officials in the battlegrounds of Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin said it would be too late for him to take his name off the ballot even if he wants to do so.

AP

Independent presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr., left, shakes hands with Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz

Kennedy said his actions followed conversations with Trump over the past few weeks. He cast their alliance as "a unity party," an arrangement that would "allow us to disagree publicly and privately and seriously." Kennedy suggested Trump offered him a job if he returns to the White House, but neither he nor Trump offered details.

Kennedy's running mate, Nicole Shanahan, this week entertained the idea that Kennedy could join Trump's administration as secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The announcement ended days of speculation and landed with heaps of confusion and contradictions from Kennedy's aides and allies, an emblematic cap for a quixotic campaign.

Shortly before his speech in Phoenix, his campaign had said in a Pennsylvania court filing that he would be endorsing Trump for president. However, a spokesperson for Kennedy said the court filing had been made in error and the lawyer who wrote it said he'd correct it. Kennedy took the stage moments later, aired his grievances with the Democratic Party, the news media and political institutions, and extolled Trump. He spoke for nearly 20 minutes before he said explicitly that he was endorsing Trump.

Tropical Storm Hone steadily approaches Hawaii, threatening floods and fires

HONOLULU (AP)—Tropical Storm Hone, whose name is Hawaiian for "sweet and soft," drew near the islands Saturday with breezes that were expected to intensify—and increase the wildfire risk for drier parts of the state even as memories are still fresh from last year's deadly blazes on Maui.

Hone (pronounced hoe-NEH), had top winds of 65 mph (105 kph). A slight increase in strength was forecast during the next two days, but Hone was expected to remain just below hurricane strength at its peak Sunday through Monday, according to the Central Pacific Hurricane Center.

A tropical storm warning was in effect for the Big Island, and a red flag fire warning was issued for the leeward sides of all islands through 6 p.m. on Saturday. The National Weather Service issues the alert when warm temperatures, very low humidity and stronger winds combine to raise fire dangers.

"They gotta take this thing serious," said Calvin Endo, a Waianae Coast neighborhood board member who lives in Makaha, a leeward Oahu neighborhood prone to wildfires.

Most of the archipelago is already abnormally dry or in drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The winds are expected to be strongest where they blow downslope from higher terrain, over headlands and through passes, the hurricane center advised.

The situation recalls last year's deadly wildfires on Maui, which were fueled by hurricane-force winds. But while Hone presents high fire dangers, "it's not on the magnitude of that," weather service meteorologist Derek Wroe in Honolulu said Saturday.

The Aug. 8, 2023, blaze that torched the historic town of Lahaina was the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century, with 102 dead. Dry, overgrown grasses and drought helped spread the fire.

For years, Endo has worried about dry brush on private property behind his home. He's taken matters into his own hands by clearing the brush himself, but he's concerned about nearby homes abutting overgrown vegetation.

"All you need is fire and wind and we'll have another Lahaina," Endo said in the morning. "I notice the wind started to kick up already."

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Islamic State group claims responsibility for knife attack that killed 3 in Solingen, Germany

SOLINGEN, Germany (AP)—The Islamic State militant group on Saturday claimed responsibility for a knife attack that killed three people and wounded eight more at a crowded festival marking this city's 650th anniversary. The extremist group said on its news site that the attacker targeted Christians and that as a "soldier of the Islamic State" he carried out the assaults Friday night "to avenge Muslims in Palestine and everywhere." The IS claim couldn't immediately be verified. It provided no evidence for its assertions. Police later detained a suspect, the internal affairs minister of North Rhein Westphalia state said early Sunday. "We have been following a hot lead all day," Herbert Reul told "Tagesschau," the news program of the German public television network ARD. "The person we have been searching for all day has been detained a short while ago."

He was being questioned, Reul said. Reul said police not only had "clues" but also collected "pieces of evidence."

Moscow, Kyiv swap prisoners of war as Ukraine marks independence anniversary

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russia and Ukraine exchanged over 100 prisoners of war each on Saturday as Kyiv marked its third Independence Day since Moscow's full-scale invasion. Ukraine said the 115 Ukrainian servicemen who were freed were conscripts, many of whom were taken prisoner in the first months of Russia's invasion. Among them are nearly 50 soldiers captured by Russian forces from the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol. The Russian Defense Ministry said the 115 Russian soldiers had been captured in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces launched their surprise offensive into Russia two weeks ago. The ministry said the soldiers were currently in Belarus, but would be taken to Russia for medical treatment and rehabilitation. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a post on X that the United Arab Emirates had again brokered the exchange, the 55th since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022.

Israeli airstrikes kill dozens in Gaza on the eve of high-level cease-fire talks in Egypt

CAIRO (AP)—Israeli airstrikes killed at least three dozen Palestinians in southern Gaza, health workers said Saturday, as officials including a Hamas delegation gathered for high-level cease-fire talks in neighboring Egypt. Eleven members of a family, including two children, were among the dead after an airstrike hit their home in Khan Younis, according to Nasser Hospital, which received a total of 33 bodies from three strikes in and around the city that also hit tuk-tuks and passersby. Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said it received three bodies from another strike. The Israeli military said it was looking into the reports. First responders also recovered 16 bodies from the Hamad City area of Khan Younis after a partial pullout of Israeli forces, 10 bodies from a residential building west of Khan Younis and two farther south in Rafah. The circumstances of their deaths weren't immediately clear, but the areas were repeatedly bombed by the Israeli military over the past week. An Associated Press journalist counted the bodies.

Hundreds of police raid religious compound in search of Filipino preacher wanted for child abuse

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Hundreds of police officers backed by riot squads raided a vast religious compound in a southern Philippine city Saturday in search of a local preacher accused of sexual abuse and human trafficking, police officials said. A supporter of the group, called Kingdom of Jesus Christ, reportedly died due to a heart attack during the massive police raid that started at dawn in the group's compound in Davao city, livestreamed online by a local TV network owned by the group, police said, adding that the death was not related to the police operations. Officers brought equipment that could detect people behind cement walls. But by mid-afternoon, they found no sign of Apollo Quiboloy in the compound—some 30 hectares (75 acres) that includes a cathedral, a school, a living area, a hangar and a taxiway leading to Davao International Airport. Quiboloy and his lawyer have denied the criminal allegations against him and his religious group, saying these were fabricated by critics and former members, who were removed from the religious group after committing irregularities. Quiboloy's followers, many filming the police raid with their cellphones, yelled at the police, questioning the legality of the raid and pronouncing the innocence of Quiboloy, who was a close supporter and spiritual adviser of former President Rodrigo Duterte.

Nikki Haley in Taiwan says isolationist policy not healthy while expressing support for Trump

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said on a visit to Taiwan Saturday that an isolationist policy isn't "healthy" and called on the Republican Party to stand with her country's allies, while still putting in good words for the party's nominee, Donald Trump. Haley, who ran against Trump for the Republican presidential nomination, told reporters in the capital, Taipei, that supporting U.S. allies, including Ukraine and Israel, is vital. She underscored the importance of Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its territory, to be brought under control by force if necessary. "I don't think the isolationist approach is healthy. I think America can never sit in a bubble and think that we won't be affected," she said. While the U.S. doesn't formally recognize Taiwan, it is the island's strongest backer and main arms provider. However, Trump's attempt to reclaim the presidency has fueled worries. He said Taiwan should pay for U.S. protection in an interview with Bloomberg Businessweek published in July and dodged answering the question of whether he would defend the island against a possible Chinese military action.

Life & Style

Justin and Hailey Bieber welcome a baby boy, Jack Blues

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Justin Bieber, who rose to international stardom in 2010 with his hit "Baby," has welcomed one of his own with his wife, Hailey Bieber (nee Baldwin).

The singer, 30, posted a photo of a baby's foot Friday on Instagram, revealing the child's name as Jack Blues Bieber. The model, 27, reshared the post on Instagram Stories. It's not clear when the baby was born; a representative for Hailey Bieber told The Associated Press on Friday night that no further details were available.

The couple announced they were expecting a baby in May via Instagram posts on their respective pages from an intimate vow renewal ceremony. The videos and photos show the model, who also founded the skincare brand Rhode, wearing a form-fitting white dress that showed off her baby bump. The AP confirmed Bieber was just over six months pregnant at the time of the announcement.

Since the pregnancy announcement, the couple have each shared photos together and of Hailey Bieber that displayed the model's baby bump, including a campaign for the Rhode skincare line.

The Biebers married in November 2018, which they also announced through an Instagram post. The singer posted a photo of the duo with the caption, "My wife is awesome," and his wife followed up by changing her Instagram username to "Hailey Bieber." The couple dated for about a month before tying the knot.

Justin Bieber rose to fame as a teenager and went on to become a Grammy-winning artist with eight No. 1 songs under his belt, including "Sorry," "Love Yourself" and "What Do You Mean?" His latest album, "Justice," was released in 2021.

AP

Justin Bieber, left, and Hailey Bieber attend The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala on Sept. 13, 2021, in New York.

Kamala Harris with Beyoncé? Yes, but the star singer was only heard through loudspeakers

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer

Kamala Harris introduced herself to the country she hopes to lead in the climactic moment of the Democratic national convention on Thursday—and despite chatter about potential mystery guests, Beyoncé's only appearance was over the loudspeakers.

In the end, it was the most traditional of convention moments coming through television screens: the candidate, her running mate and their families bathed in the cheers of supporters, with balloons floating from the rafters.

There had been an anticipatory mood as the night took shape, and it wasn't just for Harris. For days, there were rumors of an appearance by mega-stars Taylor Swift or Beyoncé, whose song "Freedom" has been adopted by the vice president as a campaign theme.

"If she's not, they better come up with something," said NBC News' Savannah Guthrie.

An NBC reporter wandering the convention floor asked delegates what they would think about a Beyoncé appearance. NBC's Kelly O'Donnell, stationed to the side of the stage, noted shortly before Harris appeared that a curtain was blocking a view that she had throughout the convention of people who had milled about backstage.

Rumors were spreading online to the point where Mitt Romney, the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, posted on X: "Contrary to false news posts, I am not the surprise guest at the DNC tonight. My guess is that it will be Beyoncé or Taylor Swift. So disappointing, I know!"

AP

Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, second gentleman Doug Emhoff, Democratic vice presidential candidate Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and his wife Gwen Walz and members of their families stand on stage

Emmy Ruiz, the White House director of political strategy and outreach, posted a bee emoji on her X account earlier in the day. Was it a signal to the "Bey-hive"? She quickly wrote, "Sorry guys my 6-year-old took my phone."

Shortly before 8 p.m. Eastern, the celebrity news site TMZ posted a story that said: "Beyoncé is in Chicago, and getting ready to pop out for Kamala Harris on the final night of the Democratic convention." The site attributed it to "multiple sources in the know," none of them named.

About an hour after Harris ended her speech, TMZ updated its story to say, "To quote the great Beyoncé: We gotta lay our cards down, down, down ... we got this one wrong." TMZ had no immediate explanation Friday for what happened.

Maybe it was all in fun, but there was a danger to it. Would people tune in to the convention, hoping to see the superstar, and be disappointed if she wasn't there? If she DID show up, would it overshadow the Democratic presidential candidate on the biggest night of her professional life?

Finally, the Hollywood Reporter moved a story about a half hour before Harris took the stage—with "Freedom" playing through the sound system—quoting a representative for the singer saying, "Beyoncé was never scheduled to be there. The report of a performance is untrue."

Entertainment mixed with political speeches throughout the convention, with Stevie Wonder, Pink, John Legend, the Chicks, Lil Jon and Jason Isbell making appearances.

After a week in which the Democrats' headline speakers appeared after prime time (8 to 11 p.m.) ended for weary viewers on the East Coast, Harris appeared shortly after 10:30 and spoke for 37 minutes. It was an unspoken contrast to opponent Donald Trump.

Wife is now fearful about being pregnant

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married for two years, together for five. He's a wonderful man I love dearly. I always felt called to be a mother, and he has expressed the same about being a father. He would be an incredible father, and I'd love nothing more than to raise children with him.

The conflict is that, over the past year or so, I have learned much more about pregnancy and childbirth and what they can put the mother through emotionally and physically. A number of my friends who have given birth recently had serious complications.

Abby, after learning all this information, I'm terrified of being pregnant. So many things can go wrong, and I have a chronic illness that likely will be exacerbated by pregnancy. I also question the ethics of bringing a child into this world, knowing how horrible a place it is, and there are so many children who need a home already, but that's minor compared to my fear of health issues.

My husband does not want to adopt our first child unless we are unable to conceive or I am unable to carry the child, but he's open to adopting after we've tried for one of our own. Adoption or surrogacy isn't financially feasible for us anyway.

I don't know how to tell him I don't want to carry a child—ever. We are a little older, so my biological clock is ticking. How can I get over my terror to give us something we both deeply want?

TERRIFIED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR TERRIFIED: I discussed your letter with Beverly Hills OB/GYN Michele Milovina. The first words out of her mouth were, "That's a very common question," if it makes you feel any better.

Dr. Milovina went on to say that if someone (like yourself) is afraid because of a preexisting health condition, it's time to schedule a preconception visit with their OB/GYN or with a perinatologist. A perinatologist is a physician who specializes in high-risk pregnancies. You can then get real percentages and numbers and make an informed decision.

If you are still fearful, a reproductive psychiatrist (yes, there is such a specialty) may help to quell your fears. You can include your husband in these visits because this is a decision that should be made together with him.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm part of a group of four girlfriends. We gather for all of our birthdays and treat the birthday girl to dinner at a restaurant of her choice. However, one girl in the group orders several expensive cocktails, and the bill comes out to be a fortune. She seems to have no regard when it comes to the bill.

This friend's birthday is coming up soon, and she has chosen a very pricey restaurant where the bill will be a minimum of $900 for four people. I'm scared to think about it. How do we nicely tell her she has gone overboard, or do we just not say anything at all?

TOO MUCH IN MIAMI, FLA.

DEAR TOO MUCH: What "we" say to the birthday girl is that her choice of this restaurant is going to cost more than any of you can comfortably afford, and to please make another selection that will fit into your budgets. Order a bottle of wine and skip the cocktails.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

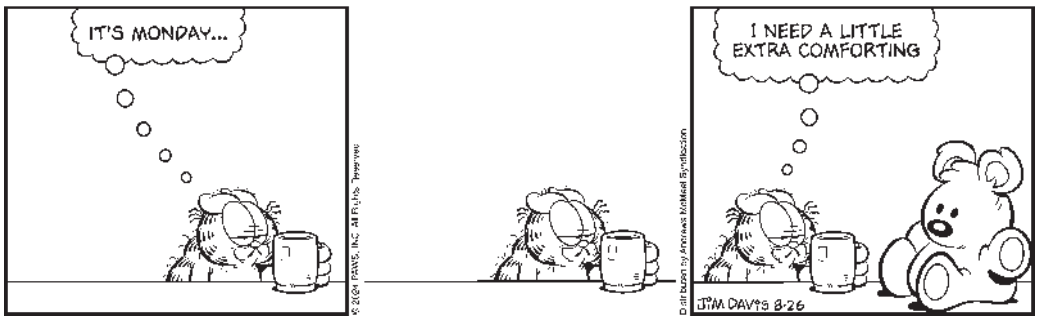
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

MOM WANTS ME TO MAKE MY BED. COME HELP ME, OK?
OK.
YOU GET SOME PENCILS, AND I'LL GET SOME BIG PAPER!
I THOUGHT WE WERE MAKING THE BED.
AND DO ALL THAT WORK?!? NO, WE'RE GOING TO INVENT A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED FOR US!
WON'T INVENTING A ROBOT BE MORE WORK THAN MAKING THE BED?
IT'S ONLY WORK IF SOMEBODY MAKES YOU DO IT.

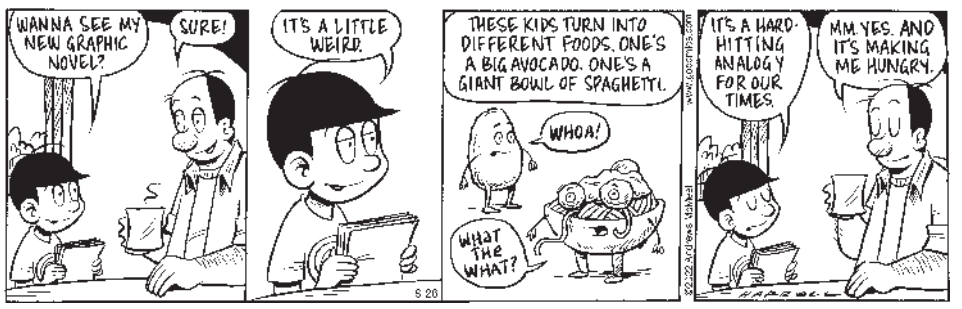
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



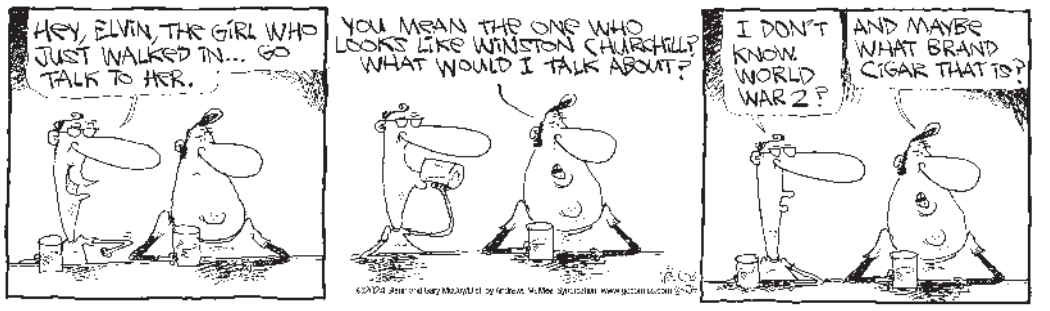
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


WANNA SEE MY NEW GRAPHIC NOVEL?
SURE!
IT'S A LITTLE WEIRD.
THESE KIDS TURN INTO DIFFERENT FOODS. ONE'S A BIG AVOCADO. ONE'S A GIANT BOWL OF SPAGHETTI.
WHOA!
WHAT THE WHAT?
IT'S A HARD-HITTING ANALOGY FOR OUR TIMES.
MM. YES. AND IT'S MAKING ME HUNGRY.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


HEY, ELVIN, THE GIRL WHO JUST WALKED IN... GO TALK TO HER.
YOU MEAN THE ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE WINSTON CHURCHILL? WHAT WOULD I TALK ABOUT?
I DON'T KNOW. WORLD WAR 2?
AND MAYBE WHAT BRAND CIGAR THAT IS?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

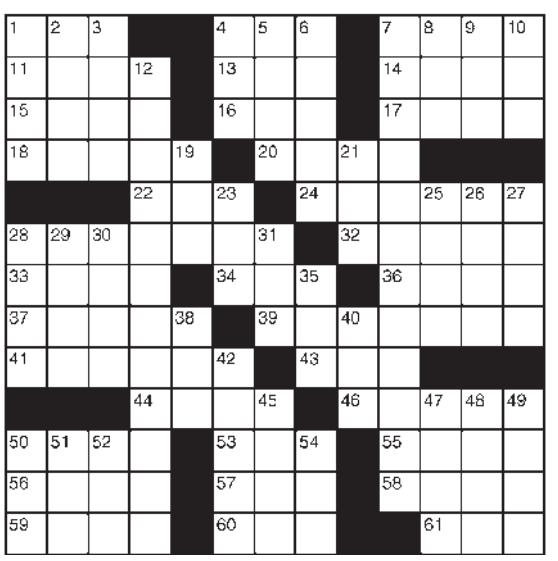
ACROSS
1 Remote batteries, often
4 Chum
7 Unspoken feeling
11 Leisurely
13 Yalie
14 Fascinated by
15 Body lotion ingredient
16 Ripken of baseball
17 Sunup
18 Bamboo muncher
20 Ump's call
22 Quick swim
24 Concludes
28 Grassy tract
32 Amtrak express
33 Trumpet
34 Soup cooker
36 Lawyer Clooney
37 Pulls
39 Vegan beverage
41 Forestlike
43 Neckline shape
44 Notion
46 Stuffy sort
50 Travel
53 Young seal
55 Vicinity
56 Curved molding
57 Branch
58 Winnow
59 Japanese instrument
60 Part of UNLV
61 Map lines (Abbr.)

DOWN
1 Now, in a memo
2 Penne — Vodka
3 Any time now
4 Chest muscle
5 "Sad to say ..."
6 Pale purple
7 Recording devices
8 — jiffy
9 Texter's "Incidentally"
10 A billion years
12 Matrimonial memento
19 Balloon filler
21 Ga. neighbor
23 "Great Expectations" lad
25 Big rig
26 Mideast airline
27 Vaccine pioneer
28 Profs' degrees
29 Golfer McIlroy
30 Asia's — Sea
31 Daybreak goddess
35 "Mazel —!"
38 Melancholy
40 "You betcha!!"
42 Kathmandu's land
45 Mystique
47 "Exodus" author
48 Skilled
49 Comestibles
50 Stir-fry vessel
51 Alter —
52 Mosquito barrier
54 Evening hrs.

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	A	H	A	L		P	B	S		S	H	U
C	N	A	H	L		R	O	E		P	E	N
S	A	W	T	O		E	Y	E	B	A	L	L
		K	E	Y	P	A	D		U	R	G	E
N	N	E		D	O	C		T	R	E	A	T
C	U	Y	S		O	H	M	A	N			
O	N	E	I	L	L		O	N	E	W	A	Y
		N	E	S	T	S		R	A	R	E	
S	C	I	F	I		H	F	S		I	I	N
U	R	D	U		M	E	S	C	A	L		
L	Y	L	L	I	D	S		A	C	L	L	A
H	E	A		D	I	E		H	A	Y	O	N
S	R	S		S	I	S		S	I	F	G	F

Last Friday's answer 8-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Keke Palmer, 31; Macaulay Culkin, 44; Chris Pine, 44; Melissa McCarthy, 54.

Happy Birthday: Stay focused on what you want to achieve this year, and refuse to let outside influences overrule your plans. Keep your emotions in check and your to-do list close by. How you handle expenses and deal with situations that require you to depend on others will determine how much you achieve. Don't hold back; voice your opinion and offer incentives to coax others to see things your way. Your numbers are 3, 11, 16, 25, 32, 40, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a panoramic view of what you are dealing with and adjust your coordinates accordingly. It's up to you to look out for yourself, your position and your reputation. Leave nothing to chance or someone else's discretion. Pay attention to detail, conversations and protocol. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Address bureaucratic issues before they escalate. Check bank accounts and automatic payments, and consider who can access your personal information or secrets. Tighten up security and take care of matters personally. The changes you make will put your mind at ease and boost your confidence. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't take on so much that you limit what you can achieve. Strive to use your skills resourcefully, and you'll get the highest return and the most unexpected offers. Steer clear of temptation or those prompting you to slack, indulge or overspend. Use your intelligence, gauge your prospects and move forward. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't be fooled by someone who isn't transparent. Ask questions, take liberties and consider every angle before you let anyone interfere in your personal or professional life. A physical change to your setup at home or work will give you leverage to get more done. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Money and emotions won't mix well today. Refuse to let anyone pressure you into paying for their mistakes or desires. Offer guidance to others, but when putting your money behind someone, let that someone be you. Invest in your own skills, experience and prospects that encourage your success. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your eyes wide open and be ready to counter anything that isn't working for you. Too much choice or taking on more than you can handle will leave you vulnerable. Put your energy into self-improvement, not trying to turn someone else into the type of person they are not. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Read, exercise your mind, add to your skills and venture down a path that excites you. Expanding your vision and knowledge looks encouraging, but don't let someone take control when you can wheel and deal for yourself. Step up and take charge, and opportunities will follow. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Putting trust in others will cause disappointment. Know what you want, and turn your ideas and plans into something tangible. Take better care of your health, and schedule your day according to your energy level and responsibilities. Be flexible, but don't waste time on scammers. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* People who play games or use unorthodox methods to grab attention or talk you into something you can't afford will draw your attention. Rethink your relationships and assess any situation that warrants trust issues. Use intelligence, research and action to outmaneuver anyone trying to exploit you. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Assemble and implement your plan. Don't rely on anyone to take care of essential issues for you. Change that begins and ends with you will pay off and encourage longevity and prospects far beyond your dreams. Someone will mislead you if you give them the chance. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Stick close to home, pay attention to detail and don't give in to someone trying to take advantage of you. Rely on your intuition regarding money, health or signing up for something you've never done before. Invest in yourself and in the things you enjoy doing most. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get your facts and figures straight before you agree to partner with someone or make unnecessary changes at home. A premature move will result in regret. Be forthright, discuss your concerns and take the time you require to look for a cost-efficient way to get what you want. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive, opportunistic and ambitious. You are thorough and unique.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

2		4		3			7	5
9	7	8		1	4	2		6
5	3			7	8			1
3			7					8
	4	5	1		3	6		2
		1	6				5	3
		7				3		9
				9		5		
		2	3			1	8	

Difficulty: ★ 8/26

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

1	8	7	4	6	3	5	9	2
9	3	6	5	2	1	8	7	4
4	5	2	9	8	7	1	3	6
5	1	3	8	9	2	4	6	7
6	7	8	1	3	4	9	2	5
2	9	4	6	7	5	3	8	1
8	6	1	2	4	9	7	5	3
3	4	9	7	5	6	2	1	8
7	2	5	3	1	8	6	4	9

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Difficulty: ★★★★ 8/23

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE **Solution: 9 letters**

T	N	I	L	L	I	N	O	I	S	C	H	O	O	L
V	R	O	H	E	A	L	T	H	Y	S	T	E	E	M
B	O	A	I	R	M	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	F	O
E	S	L	E	T	U	O	E	R	E	C	I	F	F	O
N	S	T	U	H	A	T	O	R	I	T	U	A	L	L
E	E	S	T	N	E	D	I	S	E	R	T	M	A	F
V	N	S	C	M	T	S	N	N	E	I	D	I	A	R
O	E	O	E	H	R	E	O	U	F	H	R	L	T	A
L	R	C	H	O	I	R	E	O	O	O	A	Y	H	T
E	A	I	A	G	C	L	R	R	M	F	I	V	L	E
N	W	A	O	Y	E	P	D	E	G	D	O	L	E	R
T	A	L	O	G	N	S	M	Ⓒ	Ⓐ	Ⓟ	Ⓢ	K	T	N
R	F	U	I	O	T	T	H	E	A	T	E	R	I	I
A	T	O	N	M	E	L	B	M	E	R	E	A	C	T
H	N	C	H	A	R	I	T	I	E	S	E	P	S	Y

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Athletics, Awareness, Benevolent, Caps, Cemetery, Center, Charities, Child Care, Choir, Emblem, Family, Foundation, Fraternity, Golf, Hart, Health, Illinois, Legion, Lodge, LOOM, Meets, Memorial, Moosehaven, Mooseheart, Nonprofit, Officer, Park, Residents, Ritual,

Last Friday's answer : Seminar

The NEW **Volume 77** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Lopez pitches 7 sparkling innings as Twins beat Cardinals

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Pablo López pitched seven innings, Trevor Larnach hit two homers and the Minnesota Twins beat the St. Louis Cardinals 6-0 on Saturday night.

López (12-8) gave up four hits, struck out nine and walked one while extending his scoreless streak to 13 innings. He has pitched at least six innings in six of his last seven starts, posting a 2.25 ERA with 40 strikeouts in 44 innings over that span.

St. Louis right-hander Sonny Gray (11-9) struck out seven in six innings, but allowed five runs and seven hits. It was his first appearance at Target Field since he spent the 2023 season with the Twins.

Gray had been scuffling over the past two months, posting a 5.68 ERA in nine starts since June 29. But early on, he looked like the pitcher who finished second in voting for the AL Cy Young Award last year.

AP

Minnesota Twins starting pitcher Pablo López delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, in Minneapolis.

BLUE JAYS 3, ANGELS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Bowden Francis struck out a career-high 12 in a dominant performance for the Toronto Blue Jays, carrying a no-hitter into the ninth inning of a 3-1 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Saturday.

Francis (7-3) walked three and hit a batter in his third consecutive win. He threw a career-high 117 pitches, 84 for strikes.

Francis was working on a no-hitter before Taylor Ward drove a 3-2 fastball deep to center for a leadoff homer in the ninth. It was Ward's 17th homer of the season.

The crowd of 34,011 then saluted Francis with a standing ovation when he was replaced by right-hander Chad Green, who earned his 14th save in 14 chances.

ROCKIES 9, YANKEES 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Jake Cave had four hits and three RBIs and fell a triple shy of hitting for the cycle as Colorado beat New York.

Yankees slugger Aaron Judge, who leads the MLB with 49 homers, went 0 for 2 with a walk and had his consecutive game home run streak halted at four. Judge grounded into a force out in the first inning, flew out in the third, walked in the fifth and was hit by a pitch in the eighth, ending his bid—at least temporarily—to hit 50 homers for the third time in his nine-year career.

Cave doubled in the second inning and had an RBI single in a four-run third when the Rockies capitalized on two balks by rookie starter Will Warren (0-2) and a catcher's interference by Austin Wells.

After singling in the fifth, Cave homered in the seventh to give the Rockies a 9-2 lead. It was the first career four-hit game for the 31-year-old Cave, who was traded by the Yankees to the Minnesota Twins in March 2018 for Luis Gil.

ORIOLES 3, ASTROS 2

BALTIMORE (AP)—Jackson Holliday hit a three-run double in the sixth inning—Baltimore's second big hit with the bases loaded in less than 24 hours—and they rallied past Houston.

Colton Cowser kept the decisive rally going by hustling to first for an infield single, and after Tayler Scott relieved Framber Valdez (13-6), Holliday came up as a pinch hitter and snapped a 0-for-20 slide by lining the first pitch to the gap in right-center field.

Jose Altuve and Jeremy Peña homered for Houston, but as good as Valdez was for most of his outing, the Astros gave up a lead for the second straight day.

The Orioles won 7-5 Friday night thanks to a five-run eighth inning highlighted by Anthony Santander's grand slam.

Keegan Akin (3-0) won in relief in his first appearance since returning from the paternity list. Yannier Cano followed Akin with 1 1/3 scoreless innings, and Seranthony Domínguez pitched a perfect ninth for his fifth save since joining the Orioles late last month.

CUBS 14, MARLINS 2

MIAMI (AP)—Seiya Suzuki homered twice and tripled, Shota Imanaga threw seven innings of two-run ball and Chicago beat Miami.

A day after hitting an inside-the-park home run, Pete Crow-Armstrong went deep with a 437-foot drive into the upper deck seats for the Cubs.

Miguel Amaya had three hits and a walk. The Cubs' catcher is 8 for 12 over his last three games. Patrick Wisdom also homered for Chicago, which finished with 17 hits.

Imanaga (10-3) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out three. It was the rookie left-hander's seventh start of seven completed innings.

The Cubs (65-65) are 14-7 since July 31 and reached .500 for the first time since they were 31-31 on June 5.

The Marlins have lost eight of nine and dropped to an NL-worst 46-83.

DIAMONDBACKS 4, RED SOX 1

BOSTON (AP)—Zac Gallen pitched six innings of two-hit ball, and Eugenio Suárez hit a two-run double off the Green Monster to help Arizona beat Boston for their fifth straight victory.

Gallen (10-6) struck out nine and walked four to reach double digits in wins for the third season in a row. He took a no-hitter into the fifth before Connor Wong dropped a single into right field, and left after 99 pitches when Arizona went up 4-0 in the top of the seventh.

The Diamondbacks have won 23 of their last 29 games to take hold of the top NL wild-card spot. They entered the day four games behind the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

BREWERS 9, ATHLETICS 5

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Jake Bauers hit a home run and scored three times and Milwaukee beat Oakland.

Willy Adames, Rhys Hoskins and Garrett Mitchell had two hits apiece as the Brewers won their second straight in their final trip to the Coliseum. The A's have announced intentions to play the next three seasons in Sacramento before a planned move to Las Vegas for the 2028 season.

Colin Rea (12-4) won his team-leading 12th game despite an uneven afternoon. Facing the A's for the first time in his career, the right-hander retired 12 of the first 14 hitters he faced and had five strikeouts but was tagged for a pair of home runs while giving up four runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Rea's 12 wins are double his total of last season. The 34-year-old, who had Tommy John surgery in 2016, had only 14 career wins in his first five seasons in the majors.

GIANTS 4, MARINERS 3

SEATTLE (AP)—Mike Yastrzemski homered among his three hits, and San Francisco survived a wild outing by starter Blake Snell to beat Seattle.

Snell walked five batters in the second inning, two with the bases loaded, and issued a season-worst six walks overall. He was pulled after three innings in which he gave up two runs on no hits and threw 74 pitches, 42 for strikes.

Spencer Bivens (3-1) worked three efficient innings of scoreless relief, and the fifth Giants pitcher, Ryan Walker, handled the ninth for his third save.

The Mariners finished with nine walks and four hits. Seattle (65-65) fell back to .500 a day after beating San Francisco 6-5 in 10 innings in Dan Wilson's debut as manager. Scott Servais was fired after the Mariners lost eight of their previous nine.

The Giants (66-65) have been hovering around .500 for most of August.

REDS 10, PIRATES 2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Elly De La Cruz had three hits and drove in a pair of runs as Cincinnati breezed past sloppy Pittsburgh.

Jonathan India and TJ Friedl added two hits apiece for the Reds, who beat the Pirates for just the third time in nine meetings this season.

De La Cruz hit an RBI single in the fifth and a run-scoring double in the sixth. The 6-foot-5 shortstop also boosted his stolen base total to a major league-leading 61 by swiping second base after a one-out walk in the first inning. De La Cruz eventually scored on a single by Stephenson as part of a four-run outburst against Jake Woodford (0-6).

Rookie Julian Aguiar (1-0) allowed two runs in six innings to pick up his first career victory. The 23-year-old right-hander, Cincinnati's minor league Pitcher of the Year in 2023, struck out four against two walks.

GUARDIANS 13, RANGERS 5

CLEVELAND (AP)—Jhonkensy Noel hit a three-run homer and José Ramírez and Josh Naylor had back-to-back solo shots as American League Central-leading Cleveland routed Texas.

Noel homered for the 11th time in 40 games since making his major league debut on June 26, going deep off Rangers starter Jon Gray (5-5) in the third inning. The 6-foot-3, 250-pounder also tied his career high with three hits and scored three times.

The Guardians plated 11 consecutive runs after falling behind 1-0 in the first and won for just the seventh time in their last 20 games. Cleveland entered the evening one game ahead of Kansas City and two in front of Minnesota in the division.

PHILLIES 11, ROYALS 2

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—J.T. Realmuto hit a pair of three-run homers and Ranger Suárez pitched five effective innings in his return from the injured list to lead Philadelphia past Kansas City.

Realmuto, who had a career-high seven RBIs, had his first multi-homer game since Sep. 14, 2022.

After a pair of Royals' defensive misadventures put runners at the corners to open the sixth, Realmuto hammered Brady Singer's 100th pitch above the left-field bullpen for a 5-1 lead.

Realmuto hit a 424-foot shot into the fountains in left-center during a five-run eighth inning and added an RBI grounder in the ninth.

TIGERS 13, WHITE SOX 4

CHICAGO (AP)—Tarik Skubal earned his major league-leading 15th win, and Detroit handed Chicago their 99th loss with a victory.

Matt Vierling, Colt Keith and Zach McKinstry homered for Detroit, which won for the third time in four games. Keith and Jake Rogers each had three RBIs, and Vierling scored three times.

Skubal (15-4) struck out eight in five innings. He was charged with three runs and eight hits.

BRAVES 4, NATIONALS 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Travis d'Arnaud had a tiebreaking RBI single in the sixth inning in his first game in a week, and Atlanta beat Washington for their sixth win in seven games.

Orlando Arcia and Ramón Laureano hit solo home runs, and Whit Merrifield had two hits, two walks and scored a run for the Braves.

Four Atlanta relievers combined for 3 1/3 scoreless innings and Pierce Johnson pitched a perfect ninth for his second save. He was in for Rasiel Iglesias, who was unavailable after working three games in four days.

METS 7, PADRES 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Francisco Lindor hit a two-out grand slam in the fourth inning, two batters after Manny Machado committed an error, and added a leadoff shot in the seventh to carry New York to a win against San Diego.

Harrison Bader also connected for the Mets, who have won two of the first three games in this four-game series between NL playoff contenders.

Lefty David Peterson (8-1) pitched 7 1/3 strong innings as the Mets rebounded nicely from Friday night's 7-0 loss, when they had only two hits, including one during Joe Musgrove's seven brilliant innings.

RAYS 9, DODGERS 8, 10 INNINGS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—José Caballero hit a tiebreaking two-run homer off Joe Kelly in the 10th inning after Tampa Bay blew a 4-0 lead in the first and they rallied past Los Angeles.

Jonny DeLuca began the 10th as the designated runner at second, took third on Josh Lowe's groundout and scored on Caballero's shot to left-center off Kelly (1-1).

Dodgers reliever Evan Phillips allowed the tying homer to Junior Caminero leading off the ninth before striking out the next three batters.

At least 9 playoff teams enter year with new play-callers

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Kyle Shanahan's decision to bring in an outsider to run the San Francisco 49ers defense backfired last season when the previously dominant unit took a step back in 2023 under Steve Wilks.

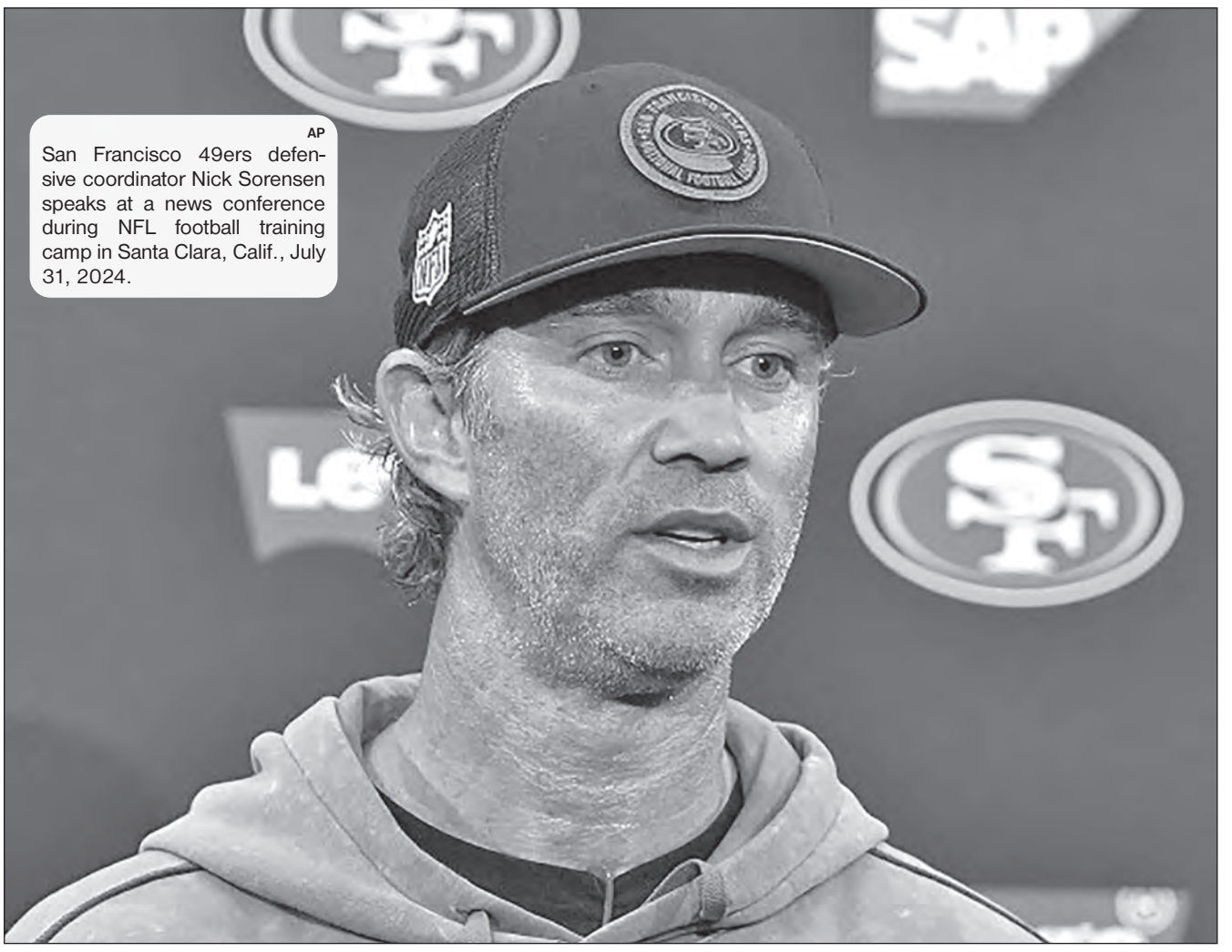
The Niners still ended up making it to the Super Bowl but lost to Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs when San Francisco gave up four straight scoring drives to finish a 25-22 overtime loss.

That led to an immediate change with Shanahan firing Wilks after just one season and promoting Nick Sorensen, who had spent the previous two seasons as an assistant in San Francisco and knows the style of defense that fits the Niners roster.

"It helps that he knows the system and has been around it," All-Pro linebacker Fred Warner said. "We just have to get better at the fundamentals and technique of what we do as well as implementing some tweaks in there as well, because we have been running the same thing for a long time. Teams know what we're running. We're not afraid of that. But there do have to be some tweaks in there to make sure that we are switching things up a little bit, and I think Nick is going to do an amazing job."

The 49ers are one of at least nine teams that made the playoffs last season and will have a new play-caller on offense, defense or both in 2024.

The Eagles switched both coordinators for a second straight season but this time because of poor performance and not because they were getting head coaching jobs. Vic Fangio will take over the defense and Kellen Moore is set to call the offense after spending the previous five seasons as a coordinator for the Cowboys and Chargers.



AP

San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Nick Sorensen speaks at a news conference during NFL football training camp in Santa Clara, Calif., July 31, 2024.

The other new play-callers for teams that made the postseason in 2023 are offensive coordinators Liam Coen in Tampa Bay and Arthur Smith in Pittsburgh; and defensive coordinators Jeff Hafley in Green Bay, Mike Zimmer in Dallas, Zach Orr in Baltimore, Anthony Weaver in Miami, and Chris Shula for the Los Angeles Rams.

Buffalo has a new defensive coordinator after promoting Bobby Babich from linebackers coach but head coach Sean McDermott hasn't said whether he will cede calling the defense to Babich.

Cleveland also has a new offensive coordinator with Ken Dorsey replacing Alex Van Pelt but head coach Kevin Stefanski is expected to remain play-caller.

Here's a closer look at the some of the new play-callers for playoff teams who might have the biggest impacts on the 2024 season:

DC NICK SORENSEN, San Francisco 49ers

Sorensen is a former NFL safety who has been well-schooled in this scheme after having started his coaching career on Pete Carroll's staff in Seattle. Sorensen spent the past two seasons in San Francisco, where he specialized in pass coverage and slot defenders, and also ran the team's weekly "Ball" meetings that stress creating takeaways and limiting turnovers.

While he has never called plays at any level, Sorensen has earned the trust of stars like Warner and Nick Bosa, and can get some help from new defensive assistant Brandon Staley, who oversaw the top defense in the NFL for the Rams in 2020 in his only year as a coordinator.

OC KELLEN MOORE, Philadelphia Eagles

The Eagles offense got stale last season after Shane Steichen left to become head coach in Indianapolis and Brian Johnson took over with heavy influence from head coach Nick Sirianni.

Moore should get more free rein after having run offenses that finished in the top 10 in several metrics in his three seasons with a healthy Dak Prescott at QB.

The Eagles ran the least pre-snap motion in the NFL last season and were near the bottom in play-action rate. Both of those should increase considerably under Moore, which could make life easier on quarterback Jalen Hurts.

DC JEFF HAFLEY, Green Bay Packers

Hafley is bringing in big changes for a defense that hadn't performed up to its talent level the past three seasons under Joe Barry. The former head coach at Boston College is switching to a four-man front in hopes of fortifying a run defense that got gashed far too often in recent years.

He inherits a roster that has seven former first-round picks, including edge rusher Rashan Gary, and that added talented safety Xavier McKinney in free agency from the New York Giants.

DC MIKE ZIMMER, Dallas Cowboys

The Cowboys had a top 10 scoring defense the past three seasons with Dan Quinn calling plays, leading to him getting a new job as head coach in Washington.

But Dallas got exposed in a wild-card loss to Green Bay when the Packers scored six TDs on the first seven drives.

Zimmer has a long history of running strong defenses as a coordinator in Dallas nearly two decades ago, in Cincinnati and then as a head coach in Minnesota. He inherits a skilled unit led by Micah Parsons and aggressive cornerbacks DaRon Bland and Trevon Diggs.

OC ARTHUR SMITH, Pittsburgh Steelers

Smith struggled as a head coach in Atlanta but following a successful run as coordinator in Tennessee, where he helped revive Ryan Tannehill's career.

Smith will try to do something similar in Pittsburgh with either Russell Wilson or Justin Fields. He also should bring more pre-snap motion and play-action passing than the Steelers employed under Matt Canada. That should take pressure off whoever wins the quarterback battle.

DC ZACH ORR, Baltimore Ravens

While many of the other new play-callers are looking to tweak or improve their systems, the main task for Orr is maintaining the high level of play Mike Macdonald generated for the defense that allowed the fewest points in the league last season.

Macdonald's scheme that relies heavily on disguised coverages to fool quarterbacks and simulated pressures that stress the QB without using too many pass rushers is so coveted that four teams hired defensive play-callers this offseason that came from the Baltimore system.

The 32-year-old Orr is a former linebacker who spent the past two seasons as inside linebackers coach. He inherits many of the pieces that made Macdonald's defense so successful, including All-Pro safety Kyle Hamilton, All-Pro linebacker Roquan Smith and second-team All-Pro defensive tackle Justin Madubuike.

Browns QB Deshaun Watson sits out preseason finale after dealing with sore arm earlier in week

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

Deshaun Watson's return to the field won't happen until the games count.

The Cleveland quarterback was held out of the Browns' preseason finale Saturday night at Seattle. Watson is still on track to start the Sept. 8 season opener against Dallas.

Watson underwent shoulder surgery in November and has appeared in just 12 games in two seasons with the Browns. He sat out the first two preseason games and dealt with some soreness in his arm during practice on Wednesday. The team said he took his full reps with the first-team offense during Thursday's workout, which was closed to the media.

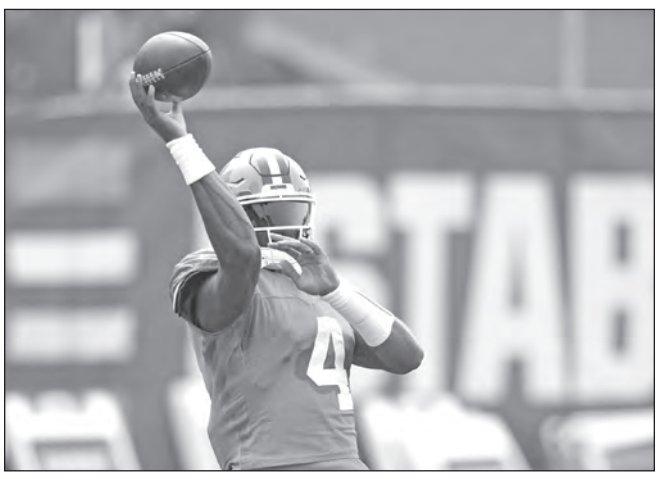
Coach Kevin Stefanski had planned to play Watson in the preseason finale but instead decided to take a cautious approach with the franchise QB. Also, the Browns are dealing with injury issues at both offensive tackle spots, which may have factored into the decision.

Watson was in uniform during pregame warmups and did some light throwing. Before kickoff, Stefanski said he was pleased with Watson's progress.

"I've seen a lot from him and really that confidence really goes back to the work that he has put in the spring into the summertime," Stefanski said on the Browns telecast. "He has worked so hard getting his body ready, getting his mind ready and I'm excited about that for him. But it's a whole body of work."

Backup QB Jameis Winston started against the Seahawks.

Watson had surgery in November to repair a broken glenoid (socket) bone in his throwing arm, ending his second season with Cleveland after six starts.



AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) throws during a joint NFL football practice with the Minnesota Vikings, Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, in Berea, Ohio.

The Browns are counting on the three-time Pro Bowler to bounce back this year. They signed him to a five-year, $230 million contract in 2022. He served an 11-game suspension that year for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy.

Cleveland was forced to start five QBs last season because of injuries. The Browns signed free agent Joe Flacco after Watson went down, and the former Super Bowl MVP led the team to the playoffs by going 4-1 and throwing for 1,616 yards in five games.

Registration open for Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic

Registration is now open for the 2024 Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic on Oct. 12, 2024, at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

Tournament proceeds will fund the education work of the non-profit organization Marianas Tourism Education Council and school tourism MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically) Clubs.

"The Marianas' tourism and hospitality industry, although below optimal levels, still remains as our primary source of revenue," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "The MTEC will continue to encourage the youth to be involved with tourism, whether they are conducting a beach cleanup, or participating in trade shows, we all have to work hard to promote our islands as a premier travel destination."

Registration forms and sponsorship details are now available on the Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. The tournament format is low gross. Flight categories are Championship (0-5), A Flight (6-10), B Flight (11-16), C Flight (17+), Ladies, Senior (ages 55+). Registration is $120. Optional play is $20. Only 144 players will be registered. No refunds will be issued after Sept. 30, 2024.

Registration payment is being accepted at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort (credit card or cash only) and the Marianas Visitors Authority office (cash, credit card, or check) at 3366 Beach Rd., Suite 101, I Liyan, Saipan. Checks should be made payable to Marianas Tourism Education Council.

Showtime on game day is 6am with a shotgun start at 7am. The awards luncheon will immediately follow the tournament.

For more information, contact Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic Committee chair Martin Duenas at mduenas@mymarianas.com or committee member Jack Aranda at jaranda@mymarianas.com or call (670) 664-3200/1. ***(PR)***

THOMAS

From page 16

72, with a handicap of 1.2.

Third went to Joseph Sasamoto with a net score of 71.6, and a gross score of 68. His handicap was -3.6.

Kim, Li, and Sasamoto all went home with $500 each. In addition, Kim won a complimentary slot to the 2024 Marianas Tourism Cup Golf Classic which will be held on Oct. 12.

Kim, the Marianas Visitors Authority's Marketing manager, was not present during the banquet and his award was received by MVA Community projects manager Martin Duenas.

Duenas said he was trailing Kim throughout the tourney. "I was trailing him, but I crashed. He did an awesome job—he was persistent. Blackjack double peoria is anyone's game when you do the raffle," he said.

He said the course and conditions that day were hot. "It was hot later in the day and I saw Tom was sweating. We were kind of losing control, but I think Tom did a great job by keeping intact and being persistent."

For Li, a student at Marianas High School, he said he tried his best and said he wasn't expecting to win second place. "I thought I had a good chance to make the Top 10," he said. On what he thinks of the format, he said, "I think it's more fun because a lot more people play… In this tournament, everybody can play—everyone has a chance. I got lucky because it was full already but a spot opened up just two days ago and I got in."

Fourth to sixth place—Henry Liang, Joe Esteves, and J.J. Atalig—pocketed $300 each.

From seventh to ninth place for $200 were Jim Arenovski, Youngmin Choi, and Rick Sablan.

Consolation prizes of $100 each for landing in predesignated spots on the pecking order were Giyeong Kim (19th place), Ben Jones (39th place), Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho (99th place), and Antonio Guerrero (119th place).

Optional play winners, who are now $200 richer, were Li Xiong Zhe on hole No. 3 (5ft.), Marco Peter on No. 7 (4.75ft.), Sasamoto on No. 12 (4 in.), and Hyun Sook Lim on No. 14 (5ft and 5 in.) in the closest to the pin competition.

Leo Ganacias had the most accurate drive on hole No. 16 at 10.5 inches, while Li teed the longest drive on hole No. 18 at 315 yards.

In the circle at hole No. 6, the golfers were Cameron Nicolas, Patrick Fitial, Dennis Mendiola, Patrick Cepeda, Gap Soo Kim, Ned Norita, Harry Nakamura, and Bart Jackson.

The tournament was capped and sold out at 144 golfers.

GUAM

From page 16

a good assist by Guam from the midfield gave Iliana Figueroa a chance to make a run for it and get them on the board in the seventh minute.

The match went on as the NMI tried to even it up, but Guam's keeper, Ahe Kaee, proved formidable at the net as she didn't allow any goals to slip past her. Time crept on with no further goals from both teams, but toward the end, Guam's Kylie Guzman found an opening in the 61st minute to make it 2-0.

Guam wasn't done attacking as Figueroa slipped another goal past NMI keeper Hailey Benavente just two minutes later, to put them up by three. Then, despite a last-minute push to the net, the NMI still failed to get on board and settled for the 0-3 final as time ran out.

With their loss, the NMI racked up a 0-1-3, win-draw-loss record.

In their debut of the tourney last Aug. 16, the NMI lost to Macau, 1-2, and ended in a scoreless, 0-0 draw against Mongolia last Aug. 18. Their second loss was against Hong Kong, 0-8, last Tuesday.

The NMI team was made up of Hailey Benavente, Alyssaa Borlongan, Mataina Reyes, Elyza Brillo, Jade Pascual, Orica George, Aira Daca, Cassidee Flores, Beatrice Gross, Angel Calayag, Alyssa Brasuell, Stacy Arriola, Miley Mafnas, Iris Rasa, Talina Aguon-McClure, Aubrey White, Va'aina Reyes, Rhodalyn Zandueta, Maya Jung, and Kaye Anne Costales.

The team officials include head of delegation Luam Khen Koo, head coach Chi Ming Tang, assistant coaches Mae Ito and Ronnel Ocanada, team manager Bernadette Horey, assistant team manager Yu Hung Lee, and physiotherapist Hazel Mabasa.

The Guam team including Figueroa, Guzman, and Kaee, was made up of Charlie Mesa, Elyse Concepcion, Allyana Li, Emme Ettleman, Kirida Mendiola, Khae'ly Olpindo, Gabriella Flores, Anaia Malaca, Hayden Wilson, Isabella Su, Aliana Meno, Hope Hutapea, Aeva Sablan, Tianna Magday, Isa Losongco, Saya Green, and Marion Finney.

EAFF

NMI U15 Women's National Soccer Team player Miley Mafnas, right, goes up against a Guam player in a scramble for possession during the final match up in the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 in Dalian, China last Friday.

LEIGH GASES

GMP x Yuman's Jether Medina goes up for a jumper during their semis game against Savemore in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 semis at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Friday.

SAVEMORE

From page 16

hand, Enano had 22 markers, while Tengco and Medina scored a pair of 15 points.

In the second game of the night, Jacob's Bakeshop's Justin Dominguez scored the winning field goal to nose out Islander Rent A Car, 72-71, with seconds to spare and etch the second upset of the night.

Manuel Gatbonton scored a game-high 27 markers, while Dan Fernando scored 20, and EmmanBondad shot 12. Meanwhile, Webb Gontar put up 17, Nikko Mejarito scored 13, and Jerome Directo had 12 markers.

Last night's championship game results will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

First Game

Savemore 93 – Foronda 25, Macaraig 17, Jandoc 16, Lauron 16, Movilla 8, Malinay 7, David 4.

GMP x Yuman 91 – Enano 22, Tengco 15, Medina 15, Atencio 10, Licayan 8, Nuyles 8, Agustin 7, Tanagras 4.

Scoring by halves: 43-36.

Second Game

Jacob's Bakeshop 72 – Gatbonton 27, Fernando 20, Bondad 12, Sy 4, Dominguez 4, Guzman 3.

Islander Rent A Car 71 – Gontar 17, Mejarito 13, Directo 12, Ferrer 10, Agustin 5, Javier 5, Broncano 4, Velasco 3, Dinglasan 2.

Scoring by halves: 33-27, 72-71.

Johnnie Walker Blue Label Classic on Sept. 21

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 2nd Annual Johnnie Walker Blue Label Classic Billfish Tournament on Sept. 21, 2024, in the Marianas.

Last year, *Papa San*, captained by Jack Torres, hauled in a whopping 211.4-lb marlin and made them over $26,000 richer from the prize money of the Inaugural Johnnie Walker Blue Label Classic Bill Fish Tournament.

After putting up a more than 30-minute fight between the rod, the reel, the water, and the fish, *Papa San*'s crew of four anglers and a captain finally won the battle with the bill fish off the waters of Saipan in September 2023.

For more information about the tournament or to register, contact SFA president Tony Scragg at (670) 483-4597, Curtis Dancoe at (670) 285-9901, or visit www.sfacnmi.com or facebook/com/sfacnmi. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	76	54	.585	–
Baltimore	76	55	.580	½
Boston	67	61	.523	8
Tampa Bay	65	64	.504	10½
Toronto	62	68	.477	14
Central Division				
Cleveland	74	55	.574	–
Kansas City	72	57	.558	2
Minnesota	72	57	.558	2
Detroit	64	66	.492	10½
Chicago	31	99	.238	43½
West Division				
Houston	69	60	.535	–
Seattle	65	65	.500	4½
Texas	60	70	.462	9½
Oakland	55	75	.423	14½
Los Angeles	54	76	.415	15½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	75	54	.581	–
Atlanta	70	59	.543	5
New York	68	62	.523	7½
Washington	58	72	.446	17½
Miami	46	83	.357	29
Central Division				
Milwaukee	75	54	.581	–
Chicago	65	65	.500	10½
St. Louis	64	65	.496	11
Cincinnati	63	67	.485	12½
Pittsburgh	61	68	.473	14
West Division				
Los Angeles	77	53	.592	–
Arizona	74	56	.569	3
San Diego	73	58	.557	4½
San Francisco	66	65	.504	11½
Colorado	48	82	.369	29

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lopez pitches 7 sparkling innings as Twins beat Cardinals
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Saipan Tribune
Sports

At least 9 playoff teams enter year with new play-callers
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Thomas Kim deals 1st place in HANMI Golf Tourney

LEIGH GASES

Thomas Kim (not present), was first place in the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament played at the Coral Ocean Resort last Saturday. On his behalf, Marianas Visitors Authority's Martin Duenas, center, poses with Kim's prize in the awards banquet at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Saturday evening.

LEIGH GASES

Third place in the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament played at the Coral Ocean Resort last Saturday, Joe Sasamoto, center, poses with his prize and HANMI and Marianas Visitors Authority representatives during the awards banquet at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Saturday evening.

LEIGH GASES

Second place in the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament played at the Coral Ocean Resort last Saturday, Zhi Yun Li, second left, poses with his prize and HANMI and Marianas Visitors Authority representatives during the awards banquet at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Saturday evening.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thomas Kim found himself atop the 22nd Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament played at the Coral Ocean Resort last Saturday.

HANMI HOTEL ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The awards banquet was held at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Saturday night where the winners were presented with their prizes.

Kim topped the popular blackjack double peoria tournament by shooting a net score of 70.2. He fired a gross score of 87 powered by a handicap of 16.8.

Second was 16-year-old Zhi Yun Li, who shot a net score of 70.8. His gross score was

See THOMAS on Page 15

Guam quiets NMI, 3-0

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI U15 Women's National Soccer Team wrapped up the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 with a loss to rival Guam, 0-3, in Dalian, China last Friday.

It was in stark contrast to their rain-soaked game against Hong Kong, China, last Tuesday, as it was hot and bright last Friday.

The NMI and Guam's intensity on the pitch matched the heat of the day with both teams giving it their all to gain the early upper hand. The NMI had a few attacks at the net which came up short, but

EAFF

NMI U15 Women's National Soccer Team player Beatrice Gross tracks down the loose ball with a Guam player right behind during their final match up in the EAFF Fifa Forward Programme EAFF U15 Women's Championship 2024 in Dalian, China last Friday.

See GUAM on Page 15

Savemore, Jacob's Bakeshop upset foes in semis

LEIGH GASES

Savemore's Daryll Foronda goes up for a contested layup against GMP Yuman's Justine Enano during their semis game in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 semis at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Friday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Savemore and Jacob's Bakeshop both upset their foes in the Destroyers Basketball Club Invitational Basketball League 2024 semis at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium last Friday.

Savemore upset No. 2 seed GMP x Yuman, 93-91, in the first semis of the night, while Jacob's Bakeshop slipped past No. 1 seed Islander Rent A Car, 72-71, to wrap up the penultimate game of the league.

With less than a minute left, Yuman held on to a 1-point, 89-88 lead, but a crucial foul on Getsen Jandoc, and a quick putback by Alex Lauron switched favor to Savemore, 91-89.

Yuman's Jether Medina, with just mere seconds on the clock, made a last-ditch and desperate fadeaway attempt at the basket which resulted in a tie, 91-91. However, a technical foul in favor of Savemore gave them another 1-point, 92-91 advantage.

Then, with less than 20 seconds left, Yuman failed to score in their last possession, which gave Savemore the last chance at the basket. Lauron was then fouled by Justine Enano in the fight for possession with 4.8 seconds left—which he sank for a 93-91 game.

Yuman had a sizable advantage, 43-36, thanks to Justine Enano and Jude Tengco's 3-pointers and smart plays at the end of the first half, but Savemore's fighting spirit didn't let them down as they caught up and tied the game, 56-56, with 14 minutes left.

A breakdown of Yuman's defense resulted in multiple turnovers—plus aggressive coast-to-coast plays by Lauron and Khristian David allowed them to close the gap with an abundance of time to spare.

Daryll Foronda was the 1-2 punch that Savemore relied on with Lauron and the lead teetered between the two until the last minutes of the game.

Foronda scored a game-high 25 points, while Rodjay Macaraig contributed 17, and Jandoc and Lauron put up twin 16 points. On the other

See SAVEMORE on Page 15